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Kent on Sunday

www.kentnews.co.uk November 22, 2015

East edition No 687

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Threat we face over rising temperatures

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Antiques Roadshow to feature remarkable find tonight

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Our strength lies in the reality of our community

THE word 'community' is frequently overused; adored by politicians yet one we frequently become deaf to.

Yet the horrendous events in Paris should make us re-focus on just what community means and just why, politically and socially, it is so vital we never lose sense of its significance.

For many, it is the sense of a breakdown in our communities which fuels a sense of disillusionment; creating the breeding ground of a disaffected youth eager to cling on to something which gives them a sense of belonging. But it is, more likely, to be another facet of the terrorist's propaganda arsenal.

Because perhaps never before has the gulf between sectors of society been so narrow. Nor, as a nation, have we ever been so inclusive. We blend cultures and ethnicities in a manner which is the envy of the world; and no



Editor **Chris Britcher**

doubt to the enormous frustration of those who have developed such a zealous hatred of it and us as a result.

It is too easy to fall victim to some political agendas which wish to sow discourse among us; to suggest we are suffer an unhealthy xenophobia or are intolerant. The truth could not be further from the truth.

The terrorists who claim to cling to the beliefs of Isis are not chasing an ideology that they have been driven to. They are simply misguided thugs who have found an organisation in which their obvious desire to live out their sick violent fantasies are given some sort of outlet.

Society now rightly shuns them, but Western ideals and attitudes did not create them. Our foreign policy over the years may certainly have antagonised them, but it did not create those who were born and bred in our towns and cities.

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Hospitals on the mend but work still to be done

By Chris Murphy

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THE biggest hospital trust in the county has been told it is to remain in special measures - but that it is on the road to recovery.

The East Kent Hospitals University NHS Foundation Trust oversees the William Harvey Hospital in Ashford, the QEOM in Margate and the Kent and Canterbury, in addition to sites in Dover and Folkestone; the Buckland and Royal Victoria. In total, it serves some 750,000 people.

Having been put into special measures back in 2014, the latest report by the independent health regulator, the Care Quality Commission (CQC) report said there had been "significant improvements" since its last inspection, and that it was "very confident the trust is going in the right direction".

But it warned there was still much to be done.

Chief inspector of hospitals, Sir Mike Richards, said: "Significant progress has been made over the last six months... however further improvement is required across



IMPROVING: But the Kent and Canterbury still "requires improvement" according to CQC report

multiple services before they can be described as good."

The Buckland and Royal Victoria have now got 'good ratings' but the other three all remain as "requires improvement". However, staffing levels have improved and care is rated 'good' across the whole trust.

Trust chief executive, Chris Bown, said: "I am very pleased we have made demonstrable progress since our last CQC inspection but we must not rest on our laurels.

This is not the time for complacency. Service improvement should be a continuous process. The CQC report identifies a number of areas where we need to improve services and its clear our improvement programme will need to be fully implemented if we are to achieve 'good' ratings for more of our services. That must be our objective. If we continue to improve services in east Kent I am confident we can emerge from special

measures."

Steve Inett, of independent consumer champion for health and social care users, Healthwatch Kent, said: "We have recently visited outpatients at East Kent Hospitals to talk to patients about their experience and our findings would echo the improvements that the CQC have found. We will continue to work closely with EKUFT to ensure they listen to patients and improve services."

Manston campaigners refocus to push for a positive ultimate goal

CAMPAIGNERS fighting for Manston Airport to be reopened say they are "sincerely disappointed" after Thanet District Council's overview and scrutiny committee ruled out overturning the cabinet's decision not to pursue a compulsory purchase order (CPO) of the site with US investment firm RiverOak.

Instead, it rubber stamped the decision made by the cabinet at the end of last month.

Manston shut as an airport in May 2014 and the site sold to the team behind the Discovery Park in Sandwich who have outlined ambitious proposals to turn it into a major development site.

RiverOak has long been attempting to buy Manston but struggled to provide the information about its financial backers which, in turn, prevented the council from agreeing to go into partnership with it.

Ruth Bailey, chairman of the Supporters of Manston Airport organisation, said: "We were sincerely disappointed to hear of the

rejection of RiverOak as an indemnity partner. We have supported and campaigned for RiverOak over the last 20 months, but we felt the continuing focus on them as the sole solution to the reopening of Manston Airport was becoming detrimental to our overall aim as a campaign group - notably to reopen Manston Airport.

"We have learnt of several other viable investors who are interested in running the airport, with talks already well under way with one particular company.

"It is a shame that the focus, and very vocal support, for one company has dominated some quarters to the exclusion of other potential investors who have consequently been wary about coming forward.

"The time has now come for everyone, to be more receptive to new, alternative investors. The abuse of people in a position to grant the CPO must stop. The negativity needs to be replaced by a culture of positivity and teamwork."

Probe after woman is found in central reservation of A21

A MAJOR police investigation was launched in the early hours of Friday morning after a woman was found in the central reservation of the busy A21 Tonbridge bypass - and died soon after.

Paramedics were called to the scene between Hildenborough and Tonbridge at 4.30am. They treated the woman and rushed her to hospital, but she was pro-

nounced dead at around 5.30am.

Police closed the road in both directions between Morley's roundabout and the Vauxhall roundabout.

It remained shut through the morning rush hour causing major delays for motorists in the area and having a negative knock-on effect for other key routes in and around the area.

Ice rink opening delayed by a day due to mild weather

UNSEASONABLY warm weather forced the opening of the Christmas ice rink in Tunbridge Wells to be delayed by a day.

It comes as high winds, rain and warm temperatures preventing the ice from freezing.

Due to open on Friday in Calverley Grounds, it had to postpone the launch event, re-opening again on the Saturday morning.

Director of ice rink operator Icescape, Mark Smith, said: "This week we've had temperatures of 12 and 13 degrees which in itself is challenging but together with the heat from the friction caused by the high winds the impact on the ice is too great.

"We know the rinks at Hampton Court and Tower of London were also unable to open."



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Brace yourself... the cold weather is heading in

THE Met Office is warning of the first cold snap of the winter sweeping across the county this weekend - with wintry showers and temperatures feeling as low as MINUS FOUR expected.

The winter weather has so far been mild, but that looks set to change over Saturday and Sunday - and for the chill to continue

Forecasters say in the middle of the county temperatures will struggle to get above four degrees - but with strong cold winds, it will feel sub-zero all day.

The Met Office said: "It is going to get much colder with sleet or snow showers. It will feel raw across Kent with gale force northerly winds. Monday it will be drier after an early frost and possible wintry showers."



ACCLAIMED: Dame Maggie Smith

Hit movie shot scenes around seaside town

BROADSTAIRS takes a starring role in the critically acclaimed new British film - *The Lady in the Van*.

The movie, released on Friday, charts the true story of how playwright Alan Bennett allowed an eccentric woman to stay on his London driveway for a few weeks - only for her to stay for 15 years.

The woman, Miss Shepherd, is played in the film by Dame Maggie Smith.

Morellis Ice Cream Parlour, the Palace Cinema, Viking Bay and the Kiddie Rides carousel in Broadstairs all star.

The crew filmed in Thanet in November 2014. The production company used their skills to return Broadstairs to the 1970s removing yellow lines, and signs on fences.

Broadstairs was chosen as the only location outside London for the film with producer Kevin Loader describing Viking Bay as, 'the perfect location'.

The Kent Film Office say the production ploughed around £40,000 into the local economy.

Thanet District Council cabinet member for filming, Derek Crow-Brown, said: "When Thanet attracts this calibre of directors and actors it can only be a positive thing. Dame Maggie Smith has, according to critics, delivered a possible Oscar winning performance in a very British film. We're thrilled."

Council slammed for its 'ludicrous' bid to take just 10 refugee families

By Chris Britcher

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TUNBRIDGE Wells Borough Council has agreed to take just 10 families fleeing war torn Syria over the next five years - a figure described by critics as "ludicrous".

Traditionally one of the more affluent parts of the county, it compares with Ashford which is taking 250 refugees over the same time frame.

The council this week confirmed two families will be housed in the borough before Christmas as part of the government's Syrian Vulnerable Persons Relocation scheme.

But while the council was trumpeting its offer, political opponents of the Tory-run council were lining up to criticise it.

Labour councillor Alain Lewis told KoS: "It seems ludicrous that Tunbridge Wells can only offer 10 families homes in the next five years.

"We have seen only recently the huge amount of support for the refugee crisis in terms of donations organised



ROOM: But not for many

in the borough. Is it not right that we should also look to help accommodate these same people enabling them to work and bring up their families in a safe environment away from war and terrorism? Is it too much to expect bor-

ough councillors to show some leadership and work now with the landlords of Tunbridge Wells to come forward and offer refuge to more Syrian families who have been saddled with the plight of being driven from their homes through terror and violence?"

The views were echoed by Ben Chapelard, a councillor for the Liberal Democrats. He added: "If we were in their shoes we would do exactly the same as them - flee their country to find a better life for our families. It would be nice to think that there would be someone there for us in our time of need.

"The council needs to show the same generosity of spirit which the people of the borough have demonstrated recently."

Lynne Weatherly, cabinet member for communities and wellbeing, responded to the claims: "The number of families we have said we will welcome to the borough is similar to the number identified by councils all over the country. We are mindful there other people in the borough who also need our assistance and we feel that ten families is the right number."

Family pay tribute to couple killed in crash

THE family of a Margate man who died in a car crash in Norwich last Sunday have described him as "a bright, enthusiastic young man with a heart of gold".

Oliver Appleby, 24, and his partner, Sarah Delf, were involved in a collision with a lorry on the A140 at Yaxley. Both died at the scene.

Born in Croydon, Mr Appleby moved to Margate when he was nine, and attended the Ursuline College in Westgate-on-Sea.

The Appleby family said: "Oliver was a bright, enthusiastic young man with a heart of gold. He always put others first and doted on his beautiful girlfriend Sarah, spending five happy years together.

"Oliver loved history and politics so after finishing his A-levels at Ursuline College he decided to go to the University of East Anglia.

"He was very popular and was loved by many for his witty sense of humour, charm and kindness. We loved both Oliver and Sarah dearly and they will always be remembered."

CXK and the Kent Foundation team up

TWO leading organisations dedicated to assisting young people launch into the world of work have signed a deal to jointly work on projects going forward.

CXK, based in Ashford, is a charity that helps young people and adults develop their skills, raise their aspirations and maximise their potential.

The Maidstone-based Kent Foundation delivers a range of business start up services to help young people to start or grow their business in Kent.

The two have signed a 'memorandum of understanding' which will pave the way to combining forces going forward.

Sean Kearns, chief executive of CXK, said: "By working closer with the Kent Foundation we'll now be able to provide a valuable service to those young people who have an idea but are unsure how to develop it."

Paul Barron, director of The Kent Foundation, added: "We look forward to jointly developing services for the benefit of all."

Meetings staged to smash horse crimes

POLICE cracking down on rural crime are holding a special event next week in a bid to help prevent equine crime.

It comes amid mounting concerns over the amount of crime faced by horse owners.

This extends from the animals themselves to the expensive equipment around them and items such as horse trailers.

The event will see officers from the Kent Police Rural Task Force and Kent HorseWatch - a voluntary group which shares information on equine crime - join forces at Chilham Village Hall from 7-9pm on Monday.

PC Geordie Laidlow said: "People are very protective of their horses, rightly so, and treat them as members of their families.

"And we are very aware that people who keep horses also have a lot of high-value equipment which is often kept in isolated premises."

The event will be followed by another, on November 30, at Yalding Village Hall, between 7-9pm.

Highways England gets bitten by conservationists over A21

By Tom Pyman

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A CONSERVATION group has slammed Highways England over its work on the A21 near Tunbridge Wells.

The 2.5 mile stretch of road between Pembury and Tonbridge, a notorious traffic hotspot, is being dualled as part of a multi-million pound upgrade.

Last week, Highways England, which is behind the £70m work, highlighted what it said was "extensive" work to protect and enhance the environment affected.

But the Woodland Trust, a national organisation which fights to protect woodland, said the work had already devastated an area of ancient woodland.

Its conservation director, Austin Brady, said: "The picture Highways England paints of its environmental work is misleading and does not fully acknowledge the loss of irreplaceable habitat."

"A stated aim within Highways England's biodiversity action plan is 'no net loss of biodiversity' but when a project involves the loss of irreplaceable ancient woodland, as this does, it is impossible to say that aim has been achieved."

"At this site, nine hectares of ancient woodland – important for its trees, wildlife and hugely valuable undisturbed soils – was destroyed."



PROGRESS: View from above of the work to ease congestion on the busy A21

"Highways England's work to reuse or translocate ancient woodland soils is only a salvage operation at best, with little evidence to support its long-term viability."

As part of the project, Highways England was committed to creating 180,000 square metres of new woodland, preserving a listed barn and protecting wildlife.

Highways England project manager, Anne-Marie Palmer, said: "Not only are we improving the road for drivers, we are also making sure that the environment is

protected by the improvements.

"We recognise that the A21 runs through exceptionally beautiful and protected countryside, and has significant cultural heritage."

"That's why we're ensuring that we are protecting the environment and preserving some of the history of the area."

For more on the remarkable historical findings made during the extensive work which is taking place along the A21, see inside.

Acid attack suspect pleads guilty in court

GEOFFREY Midmore, 26, arrested in Gillingham, has pleaded guilty to an acid attack on a mother-of-six which left her with severe injuries.

He admitted causing grievous bodily harm with intent at Southampton Crown Court.

His brother Billy Midmore, 22, pleaded not guilty to the same charge. His case was adjourned to January 15. Both men, from London but of no fixed address, were remanded in custody.

Two arrested over terrorism charges

TWO men were arrested in the early hours of Sunday for suspected terrorism offences as they attempted to leave the UK through Dover.

The suspects, aged 22 and 20, were detained by Kent Police at the port. Police said the arrests were not linked to the Paris attacks nor was there any immediate threat the local community.

Rusbridge award

LOCAL food and drink champions Produced in Kent is to present an award named in honour of former Tunbridge Wells mayor Mike Rusbridge.

Mr Rusbridge, who died earlier this year, will be recognised through the Taste of Kent Award for young food and farming entrepreneur.

Mr Rusbridge was a master baker and ran his own bakery.

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Appeal to help ease the long wait for vital organ donations

FIVE people in the county have been waiting for a life-saving transplant for more than five years, it was revealed this week.

According to figures released by NHS Blood and Transplant, 138 people in Kent are waiting on a vital transplant – 24 of whom have been on the list for longer than two year.

And that has prompted a renewed call for people to ensure their loved ones know if they want to be a donor in the event of their death.

Sally Johnson, NHS Blood and Transplant director of organ donation and transplantation, said: "Statistically, more than one-in-ten people on the waiting list will die before they get the transplant they need. For some organs, the picture is significantly bleaker. More than one-in-four people waiting for lungs will die.



"I'd ask you to imagine how you'd feel if someone close to you was waiting for a transplant; their whole life on hold, hoping someone will donate to save them. I'm sure we'd all hope an organ would be

available to help someone we love – so shouldn't we all pledge to be organ donors so more lives can be saved?"

For more details, see the website www.organdonation.nhs.uk.

Claire Tiltman murder cops pick up top award

THE team who helped crack one of the county's longest unsolved murder investigations have received a commendation from Kent Police's top cop.

Det Supt Rob Vinson, Det Con Andrew Jobs and retired Det Insp David Withers, now working as a case worker for the major crime unit, played a pivotal role in getting Colin Ash-Smith convicted of Greenhithe teenager Claire Tiltman's murder.

She was murdered as she went to visit a friend in an alleyway close to her home in 1993. She was just 16. She had been stabbed multiple times.

Ash-Smith, who had been quizzed at the time of the original investigation, could not be charged due to insufficient evidence, despite being a

long term suspect and serving time in prison for two separate attacks on women.

The team worked together to thoroughly review earlier investigations and also searched Ash-Smith's prison cell and the home of his parents.

A complex and detailed case was eventually compiled against him using minute pieces of evidence which, when put together, resulted in a strong case against the suspect.

Ash-Smith was sentenced to life imprisonment with a minimum term of 21 years in November 2014.

Chief Constable Alan Pughley said: "The team showed tremendous drive, attention to detail and tenaciousness to bring this case to its conclusion."

Trees celebrate the WI

SOME 100 saplings have been planted at Leybourne Lakes Country Park to mark the centenary of the Women's Institute (WI).

Members of the Ham Hill and Snodland WI joined forces with volunteers to plant the trees, which were provided by the Woodland Trust's Free Trees Scheme.

Academy's 3G funding

CONSERVATIVE MP Tracey Crouch has presented a cheque worth £519,797 to Chatham's Victory Academy - to go towards a 3G artificial pitch.

The sports minister and Chatham MP handed over the cash from the Premier League and FA Facilities Fund.

Bomb hoax probe starts

AN INVESTIGATION is under way after a controlled explosion was carried out on a suspicious package in Ramsgate on Wednesday.

Bomb squad official sealed off streets around Grange Road. Police confirmed it was a hoax.

Let's talk about gender

THE University of Kent is to host a discussion on different perspectives on sexuality and gender on Tuesday between 1-6.30pm.

Entitled Born this Way: Multidisciplinary approaches to sexuality and gender, it takes place at the Darwin conference suite in Canterbury. It is free and open to the public.



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Top Three Stories



1. Rare comic art on sale

Star Wars fans set to flock to Bluewater

2. A21 chaos after death

Probe after woman found in reservation

3. Snow on its way?

Cold weather set to sweep in this weekend

The Essential Guide:



...to Dreamland

All you want to know about Margate's popular re-imagined theme park



FEATURED PHOTO GALLERY: Hundreds took to the grounds of Hever Castle to get a sense of what it's like to be a Commando with a gruelling obstacle course... for full details and pictures see online or inside

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Top Three Blogs



1. Don't let terrorists win

Why we must be careful in response to Paris

2. Downtown demise joy

TV drama outstayed its welcome, didn't it?

3. Campaigns miss point

Mental health ad shortcomings

Results of the KoS Online Poll

Has Paris attack changed your London travel plans?

- 1 Yes, I won't go there - 18 %
- 2 Yes, I'll avoid tourist areas - 9 %
- 3 No, that's letting terrorists win - 64 %
- 4 Undecided - 9 %

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Claire's killer faces appeal panel as MP says he should 'die in jail'

Chris Murphy takes a look at Colin Ash-Smith's attempt to challenge his murder conviction over the brutal killing of 16-year-old Greenhithe teenager Claire Tiltman – a crime that stunned the county

AS AN appeal against his conviction draws closer, the man found guilty of schoolgirl Claire Tiltman's murder should rot in jail, says her local MP.

When the teenager was killed in an alley near her home, it was a crime that shocked the country and triggered one of the nation's biggest manhunts.

It took more than 20 years to put away the man who carried out the killing.

He was finally jailed in 2014.

But Colin Ash-Smith is now launching a second appeal in a bid to clear his name of the crime.

A previous hearing in front of a single judge was refused and the court says this is now a renewed appeal in front of a panel. It is due to take place this week.

Claire Tiltman had only just turned 16 when she made a fateful journey to visit a friend. She never made it home after being subjected to a vicious unprovoked attack in an alleyway close to her home.

Gareth Johnson won his Dartford Westminster seat in 2010 for the Conservatives, long after the murder in January 1993.

But he became concerned it took so long to bring anyone to justice.

He described Ash-Smith as "an odious man" and someone he has nothing but utter contempt for, and points out he had already been convicted of two savage attacks on local women before being jailed for the murder of the 16-year-old.

He told us: "I think Colin Ash-Smith should die in prison for the murder of Dartford teenager Claire Tiltman.

"The murder of Claire was a senseless and wicked act and I remember very well how it shocked people in Greenhithe and right across Dartford at the time.

"Ash-Smith is evil to the core. He took a young girl's life away without any reason other than to satisfy his own selfishness. He had already been convicted of two savage attacks on women before he was convicted of Claire Tiltman's murder and should never be released from prison.

"In a final cowardly act he even refused to leave his cell for sentencing and he has shown no remorse for any of his crimes.

"Greenhithe is a safer place with Ash-Smith behind bars."

He was already serving life for those two attacks. One was on the evening of October 17, 1995.

Police picked him up just hours after Charlotte Barnard, 21, had been stabbed again in an alleyway, this time just a few hundred yards from where Claire died.

Years earlier in December 1988, a woman was kidnapped, almost raped and murdered by Ash-Smith near a

Swanscombe quarry.

Taken to court to face charges on both attacks, he confessed on December 20, 1996, and was locked up for life.

Police at the time tried to link him to the Tiltman murder because of the obvious similarities and location, but were unable to compile enough damning evidence at that time. Rumours circulated the area at the time that Ash-Smith was in the frame, but nothing came of the suspicion.

Now 47, the former milkman from Swanscombe is taking his case back to court to appeal the conviction, which only came after cold case officers at the Kent and Essex Serious Crime Directorate looked at the evidence once again in 2013.

He was arrested in February 2014 and faced a five-week trial later that year.

He was then jailed for life with a tariff of 21 years for Claire's murder.

The jury at his trial was told he attacked the teenager just four days after her 16th birthday. It was a frenzied attack with a knife that left her with devastating and fatal injuries.

The only child was walking along the alley off the London Road to see a friend.

Tragically her parents Cliff and Lin, from Stone, both died before Ash-Smith was found guilty after a five-week trial at the Inner London Crown Court.

A panel of three appeal judges at 10am in court eight of the Royal Courts of Justice in The Strand, London, will hear submissions by Ash-Smith's legal team on Friday, November 27.

It's understood they will argue the conviction was unsafe and suggesting Ash-Smith is completely innocent.

The original trial was told Claire was stabbed multiple times by Ash-Smith who apparently has a fascination for knives.

Some of the wounds were 15cm deep, suggestion extreme force was used on the pupil of Dartford Grammar School for Girls.

She had somehow managed to stagger out of the alleyway before finally succumbing to the horror wounds in front of startled motorists in London Road.

Shocked jurors were told he knew the family, who attended the local Swanscombe and Greenhithe British Legion Club, and he even attended her funeral said to be wearing the same jacket as the night he murdered her.

The appeal is being handled by Nadir Prabatani, a duty solicitor at Carringtons Solicitors in Nottingham.

He told us: "I am not at liberty to discuss the case or anything about my client."

One local in Greenhithe, Kevin Hand who knew the family, described



JUDGEMENT: Panel will sit at the Royal Courts of Justice in The Strand on Friday



KILLER: Colin Ash-Smith

Ash-Smith as "strange" and added: "He was creepy, the way he looked at you. There was an aura about him, something strange and something not right."

East



VICTIM: Claire Tiltman was killed in 1993



ANGRY: Steve Dymond was left with hepatitis C after receiving infected blood to treat the haemophilia he was born with - a condition which prevents the blood from clotting

Blood scandal victim demands Whitehall rights horrific wrongs

Steve Dymond is once again calling on the government to deliver on the compensation package those affected by contamination deserve in order to 'live our lives with a certain amount of dignity'

By Emma Youle

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A COUPLE whose lives have been torn apart by the blood contamination scandal have called on the government to deliver on its promises to make amends for decades of suffering.

Steve Dymond, 59, from Broadstairs, was infected with hepatitis C after being given infected blood products to treat the clotting disorder haemophilia.

He was one of 7,500 haemophiliacs in the UK infected with HIV or hepatitis C (hep C) following a deadly medical oversight in which blood products from high risk donors, such as drug

addicts and prisoners, were given to NHS patients. Some 2,000 have since died.

In March this year the prime minister apologised on behalf of the British government and promised to release £25million financial support for victims immediately, and to increase that after the general election in May.

But the £25m has not been forthcoming and in July the government delayed further decisions until after the autumn spending review on November 25.

Blood scandal campaigners say the timetable has "slipped drastically" and a final settlement proposal is now unlikely to be on the table before next April.

Mr Dymond said: "Until the terms of whatever settlement is going to



made we're left in a sort of practical limbo. David Cameron's apology said this was something that never should have happened but there's never been recognition. People call it an accident, a tragedy, whatever else.

"I think a firm declaration of some money to be paid, a firm statement on a lump sum and an income, would be some sort of recognition of the damage that's been done."

KoS highlighted the many ways victims and their families have been let down by successive governments over three decades in a special report in May.

Mr Dymond went public for the first time as part of our coverage to reveal the devastating impact of living with hep C.

The illness affects the liver and he now suffers cirrhosis and has been unable to work for 10 years.

He and his wife, Su Gorman, have been forced to move into her 85-year-old mother's home as they struggle to support themselves on pay-outs of just £14,000 a year.

"It's a humpty dumpty situation," said Mr Dymond. "There's no way that it can be fixed, people's lives cannot be repaired, the damage that's been done."

"But on the other hand we could be given the practical and financial wherewithal to live our lives with a certain amount of dignity."

Campaign groups say they are frustrated settlement negotiations are still at early stages.

They also fear some key groups, such as children of those who have died and some infected with hep C, may be left out if any future settlement follows draft proposals already laid out in Scotland.

Joseph Peaty, co-chair of campaign group Tainted Blood, said: "It's astonishing and outrageous really that this isn't in the pipeline and ready to go when the government knew they had to do this."

Glenn Wilkinson, of Contaminated Blood Campaign, said: "We feel grossly let down by David Cameron and by the Department of Health."

"We have been led to believe that this is going to be sorted out once and for all by both parties and neither has held to their commitment and that is absolutely unacceptable by any standards."

A Department of Health spokesman said: "Reforming the current payment schemes for those affected remains a priority - we are absolutely determined to get this right and will finalise proposals after a full public consultation, which will be publicly announced after the spending review."

NEW DRUG OFFERS GLIMMER OF HOPE

OVER the last 12 weeks Steve Dymond has been taking a new drug that may eradicate the deadly hep C virus from his body.

Steve and his wife, along with other victims of the blood contamination scandal, have been fighting for access to the expensive drug, called Harvoni, on the NHS for more than a year.

While it will not reverse his liver cirrhosis, Steve is hopeful of a brighter outlook for the future and that he will be in a better state of health if a liver transplant is necessary in years to come.

"We've waited so long for

something which is a life-saver basically, let's not mince words," he said. "Not just a life saver in terms of life and death but also in terms of quality of life and what do we do with our remaining years."

But campaigners have made clear to government that those treated with Harvoni should not be left out of any financial settlement for contaminated blood victims.

While it offers the prospect of a better quality of life, the drug will not repair the decades of irreversible damage already inflicted on the livers of hep C sufferers.

COME ON CAMERON, SPEED UP SUPPORT...

THE blood contamination scandal is a tragedy that has drawn on for far too long.

Despite promises from this government that new financial support is on the way, there is little sign this will happen soon.

Meanwhile thousands who have lost their health as a result of killer viruses continue to live in poverty. The failure runs deep.

We welcome the government's pledge to make £25million available to victims. Today KoS calls on prime minister David

Cameron to speed up the release of these funds.

Campaigners are hopeful of reaching a negotiated settlement with the government that will fairly meet the needs of all affected by this tragedy. This needs to happen with urgency.

Those still alive are faced with a daily struggle to make ends meet. The government has promised to put this right.

Until then KoS will continue to press the government to stick to its promises.

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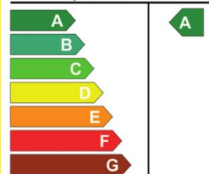
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Ever get that sinking feeling? Climate change may provide it...

Luke May asks just why we should sit up and take notice of a major gathering of government representatives in Paris later this month in a bid to reach a global agreement on climate change and discovers Kent could be swamped without it

AS GOVERNMENTS from around the world gather for a major conference on climate change, one local politician has warned of huge swathes of the county being lost to rising sea levels unless steps are taken immediately to reduce a global rise in temperatures.

COP21 – the 21st Conference of the Parties to the UN Framework Convention on Climate Change – is heralded as a key event in the bid to keep a lid on the amount of pollution being pumped into the atmosphere.

Taking place at the Stade de France in Paris from November 30 to December 11, the ultimate aim of the conference is to achieve a binding and universal agreement on tackling climate change.

It has been boosted recently by 147 countries – accounting for more than 85 per cent of global greenhouse gas emissions – submitting national climate action plans; seen by many as a forerunner to reaching just such a lofty goal.

But the consequences of failure do not bear thinking about, according to environmentalists.

A key debate topic will be the need to prevent global temperatures rising by more than two degrees Celsius. Exceeding it, say many, could exceed ‘controllable climate change’ and start altering the way the Earth operates and in turn potentially lead to some catastrophic consequences.

Kent’s Green Party leader Stuart Jeffery, from Tonbridge, claims toppling the two degree limit would cause “global chaos” with Kent directly affected by the results.

He explained to KoS: “Kent’s coastline will be directly affected by rising sea levels, across the county. Areas such as Whitstable, Shepway, Romney Marsh and Thanet could all be threatened.”

Dr Matthew Struebig is a lecturer in biological conservation and environmental change at the University of Kent.

He said: “The two degree rise is a global average which countries across the world use as a measure.

“Some parts of the world have already seen a two-degree rise, while others haven’t.

“When the global average rises by this figure, there will be large scale changes, particularly in poorer areas of the world.

“A rise in temperature would impact agriculture and wildlife globally.”

Typically it is the poor areas of the world – those less able to adapt – which are likely to be hit the hardest by the changing conditions.

Mr Jeffery from Kent Greens warns effects of climate change can be seen already and in ways which have a far wider impact than many realise – including the war in Syria.

He said: “A few years ago there was a severe drought in Syria, which is being cited as a contributor to the current conflict.

“The drought caused migrations from rural communities into the country’s cities, which put a strain on resources.

“The migrant crisis that followed shows a direct reaction to the impact of climate change.”

The two degree limit was first adopted in Europe and is compared with pre-industrial levels. Many fear that toppling it could impact on everything from creating more extreme weather conditions, to reducing the amount of freshwater available, see crop-yields plummet and causing such damage to the fragile ecosystems which exist both in and out of the oceans, many species may become extinct.

Hence the significance of COP21 which has to cater for the needs of both the developed and emerging nations.

Dr Struebig explained: “What is so important about this year’s summit is the attempts to create a new legally-binding agreement for all members

“The summit looks at a number of reports setting out evidence of current climate change, and potential mitigating factors.

“Lots of our farming is influential, for example industrial cattle farming methods. The energy used to cultivate the land and support cattle farming can be a big contributor.

“Methane gas from cattle and emissions for the machinery used can contribute massively to greenhouse gas levels.”

James Forknall, vice-chairman of the Kent Agricultural Society, believes farmers here are already playing their part.

He said: “Years ago you would have seen a tractor in a field with a ball of black smoke behind it, now there’s none.

“But the cost of this new machinery is left with the farmer, we receive subsidies from Europe, but they’re dropping all of the time.”

Estimates from the European Renewable Energy Council suggest the United Kingdom is not on track to cut its carbon emissions ahead of the summit. However, it was given a major boost this week when the government confirmed it was to phase out all coal-fired power stations by 2023.

A report by Greenpeace suggests the move

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POLLUTION: COP21 in Paris will seek to strike an agreement across the world in a bid to keep pollution levels down. Failure to do so, claim some, could leave parts of Kent under water - including coastal towns such as Whitstable (right)

will avoid up to 3,800 premature deaths, lung problems for more than a million children and 1.7 million adults, and £6.7 billion in health costs between 2023 and 2030 from pollution.

And it is the rise in air pollution which worries so many and which will be fuelling their desire for agreement at the Paris conference.

Deputy leader of the Green Party, Amelia Womack, told KoS: "Research suggests air pollution can cause more premature death than

smoking. We're seeing that air pollution collects in pockets, particularly around schools where parents are dropping their children off."

Kent County Council's director for public health, Andrew Scott-Clark, insists the authority has teamed up with Medway Council to spearhead the Kent and Medway Air Quality Partnership to look at the effect on health of pollution, but warns individuals need to be aware it can impact on many.

He said: "It is important to recognise some people will be more susceptible to air pollution, especially those with underlying health conditions.

"It is important that these people take appropriate steps to mitigate their risk, like taking medication and seeing their GP if they are not feeling well."

To under-estimate the challenges facing humanity by a failure to tackle climate change

could lead to a disaster.

Yet for many the concern is that the argument continues to be dogged by debate over just what is causing the rise in temperatures – human pollution or that simply the world's climate changes cyclically – that temperatures rise up and down naturally.

Should the debate get bogged down on such basics may prove to ultimately cost us all the earth.

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BBC show unearths JFK's jacket

By Tom Pyman

tom.pyman@archant.co.uk

A LEATHER jacket that belonged to former US president John F Kennedy will be the star turn when an episode of the Antiques Roadshow, filmed in Kent, is aired tonight.

The crew filmed the episode at Walmer Castle during the summer, attracting huge crowds keen to have their items valued by the BBC team of experts.

But they were all surprised when the jacket of the assassinated president – who was killed by a gunman on the streets of Dallas exactly 52 years ago today – was revealed.

The jacket's owner, Canon Carl Arvidsson, senior chaplain at plush public school King's in Canterbury, tells the programme how it was handed down to him by his father, whose best friend had family connections with Swedish aristocrat Gunilla von Post.

Mr Arvidsson explained: "Gunilla was 21 or 22 and lived in the south of France and then in Paris, and she was JFK's lover before he got married to Jacqueline Bouvier. I believe the relationship ended in 1955 or 1956.

"She kept the jacket, it's size 44, which was his size. Some of her belongings and love letters from JFK were sold recently in America and some of his goods were left in the apartment.

"She had three children and a nephew. The nephew was given some of the items and his best friend is my father."

Antiques Roadshow expert Jon Baddeley – who valued the jacket at a six-figure sum (the full details of which will be revealed in tonight's show) – said: "Valuing unique items such as this flying jacket is not an exact science as there has been nothing directly comparable sold previously.

"However, judging by the fabulous prices paid at the auction from the estate of Jackie Onassis [nee Bouvier] and subsequent items relating to the Kennedys, the market for Kennedy memorabilia continues to grow.

"A leather jacket owned and worn by George Harrison in the early years of the Beatles and a flying jacket from Air Force One worn by JFK both have sold recently for significant six-figure sums.

"Without the provenance, you're not going to get the dollar signs, but that seems a very strong link. In America or anywhere world-wide, it is an iconic piece. The story's everything, please write it down. I feel confident the market will pay that price."

Tonight's show will be the second of two episodes set at the historic castle, constructed by Henry VIII during the sixteenth century as protection from French invasion.

Simon Shaw, the show's executive editor, added: "This iconic item and the fascinating story behind it encapsulates the excitement and unpredictability that give Antiques Road-



show its enduring appeal. We just never know what is going to come through the door."

Regarded as one of the most popular leaders and fascinating characters in history, Kennedy's brutal slaying in Texas on November 22, 1963 – shot by gunman Lee Harvey Oswald as the president travelled in a cal-

vacade – has ensured his legend lives on. He was elected president in 1961 and, at the age of 43 was the youngest man to be elected president.

The Antiques Roadshow from Walmer Castle, featuring the valuation of John F Kennedy's leather jacket, is on tonight at 8pm on BBC One.

RARE: The full cost of the JFK jacket will be revealed on the Antiques Roadshow this evening



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Is now the time for RAF to join battle in Syria?

Pressure is growing on the government to throw its military weight behind the bid to root Isis out of Syria following the horrific attacks on the streets of Paris as security in the county is increased

By Chris Murphy
editorial@kosmedia.co.uk

A LEADING Muslim organisation in the county has backed increasing pressure for military teams to "destroy" Isis in its Syrian stronghold.

In the week in which security at key entry points across the county was stepped up following the horrific attacks in Paris, Anwar Khan, spokesman for the Kent Muslim Welfare Association in Gillingham, told KoS the terrorist group needed to be eradicated.

He said: "I condemn this attack and all the others that are happening in this part of the world in many countries which are happening every day.

"There is no room for these people who kill others. There are 1.5 billion Muslims and they are all suffering because of these few. As the Koran says,

if you take one innocent life, it is like you are taking the life of the whole of humanity."

As the international investigation into who was behind the brutal attacks in the French capital continues, it has become apparent that many of those committing the cowardly murder on the streets were born and bred in the country.

Anwar Khan added: "They [Isis] are using the economic misery of youngsters who have no money and no jobs. They are offered money to join and the youngsters do.

"They are prepared to blow themselves up knowing they have no life but can leave that money to their families. The war on Iraq left a breeding ground for these people in the whole region."

There have been growing calls this week for the UK government to commit to getting involved in military action in Syria, but since MPs voted against it, the RAF remains on the sidelines.



kentnews.co.uk kent-life.co.uk



SHOCK: The French nation, including its president, inset, is still coming to terms with the events of November 13

Backing the growing calls for RAF strikes in Syria, the spokesman for the Kent Muslim group said: "I am for anyone who can go and destroy them. We also need to find those who are arming the terrorists.

"They are not manufacturing their guns, someone is selling them weapons and they also need to be found and stopped."

Motorists using the cross-Channel ports have been urged to leave extra time for their journey to allow for more thorough passport checks as security is increased.

At Dover, a spokesman for the port said: "We have been advising customers to allow plenty of time to travel to Calais and Dunkirk.

"Increased security checks are being conducted."

Eurotunnel said its services have not been affected and are running as normal.

But as the dust begins to settle on the carnage on the streets of Paris, the pressure now is on taking direct action against those responsible for killing 129 people and leaving more than 300 injured - 100 of them critically.

Leading the call for military action in Syria is Tonbridge and Malling Conservative MP and former British Army officer Tom Tugendhat. His wife, Anissia, is from Paris.

He explained: "It [bombing Syria] won't win the war, but as everyone knows you have to weaken your enemy in every way possible."

Backing the French raids on the town of Raqqa, said to be the main HQ for Isis in Syria, the MP said: "The French have been attacking targets

in Syria for weeks now and maybe months.

"Some 40 people were killed in Beirut, where I have worked as a journalist, by terrorist bombs, so this is not something that is affecting just those in Europe. It is a war over the different interpretations of Islam. It is important we chose the side for democracy and moderates and do not tolerate attacks like this, whether they be French or Lebanese."

He is backing British military action in Syria, and added: "This is not an arbitrary target chosen at random. This is Islamic State attacking France and if they were able to would be attacking us too.

"Because of a vote in Parliament a few years ago, we are allowed to attack our enemy in Iraq but not yet in Syria and that strikes me as absurd."

David Cameron scrapped plans to call for another vote on airstrikes earlier this month amid fears of another defeat.

Mr Tugendhat, who served in both Iraq and Afghanistan, confessed: "It won't stop them but it would make their life harder.

"There is a very simple military principle which everyone can understand, and that is that you don't win a war in one battle, but you drain your enemies' resources in every way you can, so your enemy simply can't stand up, and that is precisely what we need to do.

"They want to divide us and pick us off one by one. Let's not kid ourselves, they would poison us by the hundreds of thousands. If they could, they would kill millions of us. The fact they haven't is because they are not able to.

"They want to see Europe under Sharia law. Let's be honest, these are not rational people - they are insane. We need to cut the head off the snake, and the snake is currently in Syria."

North Thanet Tory MP Sir Roger Gale also wants to see British planes hitting Syrian targets.

He also expressed fears of an imminent terrorist attack in the UK.

He told us: "All the people in the security business you talk to will say it is not a question of 'if', it's 'when'.

"The ferries and Channel Tunnel are a target, they always have been.

"The building I work in is a target. The BBC and London Underground are targets.

"Should we let that stop us? Well, no. The moment you let it change your life, the terrorists have won. There is probably very little more we can do than is already being done.

"There is a price you pay for liberty and that is sooner or later, someone who doesn't agree with your type of liberty is going to carry out an atrocity.

"People are asking how will we know if a terrorist gets into the UK as a refugee, and the simple answer is, we won't.

"It is blindingly obvious when there are thousands and thousands of people coming into southern Europe that two or three of them are going to be terrorists and they don't wear armbands saying 'I am a terrorist'.

"They won't mind if they lose a few on a rubber dinghy so long as they get one or two in, that's all they need.

"It is a horrible feeling."

Backing attacks on Isis in Syria, he added: "I think we have to play our

Week ending November 22, 2015 **19**

part of an international effort. It might come to putting boots on the ground, but it hasn't yet."

He said: "If it goes to the vote in the Commons and is lost, it sends out a message to our allies and the terrorists who will say 'oh well, there you are, Britain's doesn't have the balls to do it'."

"The French are doing it and paying the price as are the Yanks and maybe we do too. I treat war very, very seriously."

Sir Roger said it is now important the so-called snoopers' charter is passed which will give security services access to all online communications.

It is hoped by doing so it will crack down on the communication methods of the terrorists. The MP added: "Being snooped on is unpleasant, but being blown up is a damn sight more unpleasant."

Fellow Conservative, Charlie Elphicke, MP for Dover said: "Our intelligence services are working day and night to make sure that we are kept safe and secure. Security has been tightened at all of our borders, including at the Port of Dover and at the Channel Tunnel. We all need to do our bit to be as vigilant as possible to defeat any terrorists planning an atrocity on British soil."

"It is clear we have to take the fight to this terror group. We know these people have been attempting attacks in our country, and we know our security services have foiled many plots this year alone."

"Sticking our head in the sand and hoping it all goes away won't solve anything and certainly won't protect us. We need a joint effort between us, the USA and Russia to tackle this threat."



TRIBUTES: Parisians left thousands of tributes outside the scene of one of the shooting incidents last Friday.

Russia's recent intervention and airstrikes in Syria is believed to be the motive behind a plane crashing in Egypt earlier this month – thought to have been blown up in mid-air by an explosive device.

Maidstone MP Helen Grant MP believed we all have a role to play.

She added: "We need to raise our game through vigilance, both here in the UK and when travelling abroad. We need to be more alert to the un-

usual and the suspicious and be prepared to report matters of national security to the MI5 government security service."

For many, however, one of the most important steps is to not give the ter-

rorists what they want.

Helen Whately MP for Faversham and Mid Kent told us: "For us here in Kent, the most important thing is to hold our heads up and carry on. If we live in fear, the terrorists win."

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IN A SPECIAL ARTICLE FOR KENT ON SUNDAY, BENJAMIN LERUTH, A RESEARCHER AT THE UNIVERSITY OF KENT, EXAMINES WHY PARIS AND ITS SYMBOLS AND ITS VALUE WERE THE MAIN TARGET OF JIHADISTS.

SINCE August 2014, France has been one of the main targets for jihadists, mostly as a result of the country's participation in the American-led intervention in Syria.

But this is not the only factor explaining why the attacks of Friday, November 13, took place in Paris.

The city, dubbed as the "capital of adultery and vice" in the statement released by Isis the following day, represents all the symbols and Western values the terrorist organisation stands against, especially freedom, liberty and democracy.

Paris is also the cradle of enlightenment, and undoubtedly one of the most visited cities in the world.

The Paris attacks were meticulously prepared and targeted a series of symbolic locations and events.

The friendly football game between France and Germany was chosen by the terrorists as a high-profile event due to the actors involved and the presence of French president François Hollande in the stadium.

The intention of the three kamikazes involved in the Stade de France attack was to kill as many spectators as possible (including the president, described as "the imbecile of France" in the statement released by Isis) in front of millions of TV viewers.

The Bataclan concert hall attack, which took place during a sold out show of rock band The Eagles of Death Metal, targeted hundreds of young people, described in Isis' statement as "apostates... attending an adulterous party". Furthermore, the fact that the band comes from the United States is no coincidence.

The timing was also carefully planned by terrorists: On Friday nights, thousands of Parisians and tourists go out for

drinks or attend cultural events.

Launching five simultaneous attacks in different districts of the capital aimed to confuse security forces. On top of that, the United Nations Climate Change Conference will take place in Paris in two weeks. These attacks could thus be considered as a warning to the whole world, although the conference is not explicitly mentioned in the terrorists' statement.

Other major European cities could have been targeted by Isis on Friday 13th.

Brussels, as the capital of Europe, could have been on top of their list, especially since many suspected jihadists operating on the European continent hold Belgian citizenship.

The fact that Paris was, once again, chosen for such attacks is closely related to the Charlie Hebdo shooting, which could be considered a successful coup for terrorists.

It triggered a dynamic, as this attack gave them the confidence that it is possible to hit the heart of the French capital, despite the series of security measures that were taken to protect Charlie Hebdo employees.

The broad media coverage of the shooting, combined with the subsequent feeling of fear and insecurity in France, encouraged jihadists to reiterate such attack.

The main challenge for the European intelligence services is to track down all suspected jihadists, especially since Isis is a very diffuse terrorist organisation that effectively uses transnational networks in order to plan and organise such attacks.

In Belgium and France, several anti-terror raids were successfully launched in the past 12 months, including in the small town of Verviers, located in the eastern part of Belgium.



Yet, in August 2015, the attempted Thalys shooting, which took place on a train travelling from Amsterdam to Paris via Brussels, illustrated the authorities' difficulties in preventing such tragedies.

In the coming weeks, it is expected that France's foreign policy will take a new turn. These attacks are likely to affect the domestic political landscape, especially since regional elections will be held in December.



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Snapped: Roald Dahl in rare unseen images

Roald Dahl is one of the nation's best-loved authors with his books including the likes of *Charlie and the Chocolate Factory*, *The BFG* and *James and The Giant Peach*. To mark the 15th anniversary of his death, on Monday, Faversham photographer John Stewart Farrier showcases three previously unseen photographs of the great man which he took when they met just six months before the author's death. Here he explains in his own words what it was like to come face-to-face with the man who gave the world Willy Wonka... despite his hatred of men with beards

By John Stewart Farrier

www.johnfarrier.co.uk

IT WAS raining heavily on the day I arrived at Great Missenden – the home of Roald Dahl – author, fighter pilot and screenwriter.

I was looking forward to this photographic session especially when my daughter Sarah was one of his greatest fans.

I tapped on the front door – it suddenly opened and there was Roald greeting me by saying – “I don't like people with beards, they have something to hide.”

“Oh dear,” I replied, “but can I come in, it's pouring with rain out here – and I'm getting soaking wet. I've come to take your photograph.”

“Well you'd better come in then,” he said.

I entered his world and stood in the hallway – camera case in one hand,

thinking to myself, well this session will not take long – but then the ice began to break when we ended up talking about his collection of paintings and prints that were on the walls as we made our way to the main lounge.

“Thank God we are not going to talk about my books and I certainly don't want to be photographed in my garden hut – everyone does that.”

“That suits me fine,” I answered, “just lounge around on the sofa and off we can go.”



“I'm going to have a cigarette while we talk,” he replied.

“Have you always been a grumpy old man?” I said, as I hid behind my Nikon camera waiting for an immediate reply – telling me to go – but it never happened. We both began to laugh and thereafter it was just magic – the ice had broken.

I began taking photographs and surprisingly he talked about the days being a Hawker Hurricane fighter pilot during the war, then writing the screenplay for *Chitty Chitty Bang Bang* and even a touch of *James Bond*

– *You Only Live Twice*, was thrown into the conversation – such an unexpected treat.

We then went onto his children's books with a captivating insight to his amazing story telling, and ended up with the paintings and painters he really admired, including Francis Bacon, the brush strokes of Bratby – the colours of Kandinsky's work.

Having become captured by his charismatic charm, I was invited to have a soup lunch, prepared by his wife, Patricia, and continued our conversation in the kitchen about paint-



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CAPTURED: These photographs were taken in the April of 1990 - just six months before Roald Dahl died

ers and their magical techniques.

Thereafter, more rolls of photographs were taken but it was time to leave this fascinating person - I had been at Great Missenden for more than five hours - but not before receiving a pleasant gift of signed books for Sarah with the following inscription: To Sarah - I really like your Dad but I still don't like beards - Roald Dahl x

As I sat in my car, sorting out my camera and organising myself to leave, I began to laugh out loud again and thinking, now that was a lovely person to be with - spellbinding, delightful - Roald Dahl you're such a treat to photograph. Suddenly the rain stopped and the sun began to shine. What could be better as I drove away?

And... I did capture a little bit of photographic magic, if I say so myself.



CHARMED: The famously prickly author warmed to the photographer who ended up spending five hours at his home and being invited to stay for lunch to discuss, among other things, art.

PHOTOGRAPHER OF THE STARS

JOHN Stewart Farrier was bitten by the photography bud at the age of seven.

Since then he has become one of the UK's foremost documentary photographers.

His portfolio includes iconic individuals from the worlds of politics and entertainment and much more besides.

Some of his most celebrated work includes

shots of the Beatles, John Lennon, Cliff Richard, prime ministers James Callaghan and Margaret Thatcher and Ernie Wise.

He has exhibited his work in the top London galleries and is currently working on a new feature-length TV series, called Picturing Icons. During which he will be seen interviewing and snapping 20 famous faces.



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Osborne faces funding dilemma after Paris raises police concern

Could Kent Police escape the severity of cuts it was bracing for in this week's spending review after terrorism in France pushed security back to the top of the news agenda? **Tom Pyman** tries to find out

TEN days ago George Osborne would have assumed that planned further cuts to the police budget may get a few moans and groans, but otherwise be expected.

Today, however, just three days before he unveils the government's spending review, which will outline Whitehall's spending plans from April 2016 onward, the issue of police funding has taken on a whole new significance.

The attacks on Paris have raised security levels across Europe – with a public clamour for more offices working to protect us – not fewer.

Yet it is feared the budget reduction could be as savage as 40 per cent, on top of big reductions already felt over the last five years; cuts which have seen, nationally, the loss of 17,000 frontline jobs.

Vince Maple is leader of the Labour group at Medway Council. He explained to KoS: "Particularly in light of what's happened in France, I'm concerned about frontline policing because this is a really important issue which people value and it's being put at risk."

"People across Kent value things like the PCSOs, seeing a presence in our town centres and high streets, they are the face of the police force."

"I think we are going to see an autumn statement from the chancellor which is not going to build people's confidence."

"We'd be a lot more confident if he announced an increase in policing, or even maintaining the status quo, but further cuts on top of the savings that have been made over the last five years will be difficult to take."

Terrorism on the streets of Paris has completely transformed the debate and it is hard not to imagine the chancellor having to call on his advisors this week to revisit just how hard the axe will fall.

All of which might explain why two of the county's most vocal opponents against further cuts were keeping their cards close to their chest.

Ian Pointon, chairman of the Kent Police Federation which represents rank and file officers, and Ann Barnes, Kent's police and crime commissioner, both declined to comment to KoS this week about the funding; perhaps believing politically it would be better to keep quiet counsel at this sensitive time.

Not that Mrs Barnes has made any secrets of her views. Recently she said: "More cuts to police funding are coming and inevitably that will mean reduced officer numbers."

"However, Kent is in a unique position with our infrastructure system as the gateway to Europe – our ports, the Channel Tunnel, tunnels and bridges to the capital and a nuclear power station in our midst – we clearly need our officers now more than ever."

"Kent Police has already had to save £47m since 2010, with another £76m of cuts on the horizon."

"You wouldn't run a business like this, yet that is what PCCs and chief constables are being asked to do."

Damian Green, MP for Ashford, and former Tory cabinet member, said the cuts – designed to eradicate the national deficit – would be painful but were for the greater good in the long term.

He told KoS: "We have a growing economy, with more people in work than ever before, but we have got to get spending under control."

"If we carry on piling up debts we have got to either put up taxes or borrow more, so there will be some cuts but I hope they are structured in a proper way so that bureaucracy and red tape is being cut."

"There are tough decisions to be taken and every individual department and everyone affected has to share the pain."

As we reported in KoS last week, all of our local authorities are expecting swingeing cuts to their funding from central coffers.

And while spending on the health service is protected – it along with a host of other key areas have been ringfenced from cuts, this includes the likes of education and defence – there are concerns that without significant additional investment, the NHS will find itself unable to cope.

Retired GP Dr Paul Hobday, from Maidstone, who stood earlier this year for the National Health Action Party, told KoS: "The snag with the NHS though is that fortunately most people are healthy and therefore don't need its services, but when you are ill it hits home how much of a mismanagement has taken place."

"GP surgeries closing without being replaced is going to be more and more common and the people of Kent will suffer in terms of finding and seeing a GP, and through increased waiting times in hospitals."

"We are going back to the dark old days when the health services were critically understaffed and it's very worrying."

"A winter crisis is inevitable in the NHS, and we can see it going from disaster to disaster as the pressures of this time of year begin to mount."

"This is all totally predictable and preventable and it makes you wonder just how incompetent our government is, they should have paid attention to those who know better."

Kent Fire and Rescue Service insists it is expecting cuts but has already adapted to cater for them.

Chief executive Ann Millington said: "We're planning for about £8m of cuts and have been for some time."

"As well as doing a fabulous job of keeping people safe, which is always the priority, we're extremely good at long-term planning."



CHANGES? Chancellor George Osborne will announce the full details of the government's spending review in the House of Commons this Wednesday. The question now is just how will Kent Police fare – and will events of Paris influence Mr Osborne's plans?

"The number of incidents has fallen by half in the last decade, and I don't see this as having to make compromises, you just have to think differently and we're being innovative in the way we operate in terms of managing crews, where we have flexible working patterns that we designed ourselves."

"We've made a lot of changes over the years to see how we can work more effectively and efficiently, which has gone hand-in-hand

with improved technology.

"We can now have smaller and cheaper fire engines that do the same quality job."

"You didn't need to be a genius to work out that this sort of thing was going to happen, so we started planning early, and we're confident of being able to avoid compulsory redundancies."

"There's always going to be that fear but we have worked so hard to make sure our strategies work for the

next four years. I absolutely don't think the people of Kent should feel less safe, we're still always there when you need us."

George Osborne will stand up and announce his spending review at 12.30pm on Wednesday in the House of Commons. Full reaction to the impact on the county will be in next weekend's KoS.

And keep up with all the latest news on our website – www.kent-news.co.uk.

A bride with blonde hair, wearing a white lace wedding dress and a long veil, is shown in profile, looking down at a bouquet of white roses she is holding. The background is a soft-focus indoor setting with a window.

PURE WEDDINGS

A colourful dress
Will you be wearing white?

Inviting your pet
Animals at your wedding

Your first dance
Choosing a perfect song

Contents

WELCOME to this edition of Pure Weddings - where we hope to provide you with helpful tips as you look forward to your special day.

Whether you are well into your wedding planning journey, or you are just starting to think about getting engaged, our articles will help you along the way.

With an in depth guide to choosing the perfect song to be played during your first dance and articles about choosing to wear a coloured dress instead of the traditional white, we hope to provide something for everyone.

We have articles about what to do with your dress once the wedding is over, and steps to take if you are planning on having your pet with you during the ceremony.

So congratulations to the couples embarking on their trip to the aisle.

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The rising trend of coloured dresses

WHILE many people may assume you'll be wearing white on your wedding day, there are a number of brides who are actually favouring coloured wedding dresses instead.

There are lots of options out there, with dresses in a selection of shades such as pale blue, purple or gold.

A number of celebrities have opted for colourful dresses instead of the traditional white over the years.

Iconic Hollywood actress Elizabeth Taylor wore coloured dresses to a number of her weddings – including dark green when she married Eddie Fisher in 1959 and yellow for her first wedding to Richard Burton in 1964.

More recently, Kaley Cuoco, of The Big Bang Theory fame, opted for a long pale pink wedding dress during her nuptials with husband Ryan Sweeting.

Colourful dresses have made it onto the screen too - being featured in TV shows and films.

An episode of EastEnders saw Kat Slater attempt to marry hapless Alfie Moon wearing a burgundy dress.

And fans of the star-studded film About Time will remember the moment that Rachel McAdams' character walked down the aisle wearing a beautiful red number.

So where should brides look to find more non-traditional gowns?

If you do favour a non-white wedding dress, then your choice of where to buy one will be expanded.

You will have the option of looking outside of the traditional wedding dress shops in order to find your perfect outfit - as a coloured dress may not actually fall under the category of wedding wear at all.

You could shop on the High Street to find something that you like, or look online for inspiration.

How about the formal wear section in department stores, or a boutique store in your area, instead?

If you are on a particularly tight wedding budget, then being able to find a more affordable dress could be a blessing.

Nowadays, there is no reason for brides to feel that they should be veering towards the traditional and there are plenty of other options.

If you don't feel comfortable wearing white, or you have a favourite colour that you would much rather get married in, there are plenty of steps you can take to help you find the perfect dress.

What matters most is that you look back on your wedding photographs in years to come and feel happy with what you see, no matter what colour dress you're wearing.



COLOURFUL: Some brides prefer coloured wedding dresses

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How to take a 'leap' of faith in 2016

THE year 2015 will soon be drawing to a close and the New Year is fast approaching.

The dawn of 2016 will be bringing with it a number of new wedding trends, as well as a leap year – during which February 29 will once again appear on our calendars.

A leap year comes around every four years and it has 366 days, as opposed to the common 365.

The reasons for this are based around astronomy – helping to keep our calendars in synch with Earth's rotation around the sun.

The leap year has two significant meanings in terms of weddings.

The first being, that a tradition of women proposing to men during the leap year has been common since the 19th century.

Some attributed this to St Bridget – who is said to have made a deal with St Patrick allowing women to propose to their suitors.

The leap year offers the perfect opportunity to turn convention on its head and propose to your male partner.

A number of women have done this over the years – including ITV's Loose Women presenter Lisa Maxwell – who proposed to Paul Jessup on February 29, 2012.

If it's something you feel happy

and comfortable doing, there are a lot of opportunities to turn the proposal into a fun and special occasion, and start planning your dream wedding with your partner.

Another significant aspect of the leap year is that venues may be offering extremely good deals and cut-price rates for couples who decide that they want to get married on February 29.

It is worth enquiring, and keeping an eye on venue prices in your local area to see if they take a dip.

While there might be some superstition surrounding leap year weddings, it's important to remember that it's just another year.

There are a number of couples who got married during a leap year who still have a happy relationship.

What's more, you will be able to have a unique wedding date, which ties in with an interesting event.

Obviously this means that, while your official wedding anniversary is February 29, you will not always be able to celebrate it on this exact date – it will only come around once every four years.

Instead, you could just celebrate your anniversary on the last day of February each year instead.

This could make the years when February 29 does appear on the calendar even more special.



TRADITION: Women have been known to propose to men during the leap year

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The songs to accompany the traditional first dance

THE first dance has been a traditional part of weddings for many years, with your friends, family and loved ones watching on as you take to the floor as a married couple.

The way you choose to dance will be a personal choice - with some couples opting for a choreographed routine and others taking a more informal approach.

The song you choose will have meaning to you - maybe it was playing when you met, or got engaged, or it is one that you both share a love for?

Here is a list of some of the songs, old and new, which might be selected

Al Green - Let's Stay Together

Released in 1972, this is a well-known and unmistakable love song. Al Green's soulful singing has been loved for decades, and this classic is a firm favourite for many couples.

Beach Boys - God Only Knows

This song features lovely harmonies and a variety of instruments. Released in 1966, historian John Robert Greene said it would go on to "reinvent the ideal of the popular love song". It is a good choice for couples with a love of sixties music.

City and Colour - The Girl

This melodic, acoustic song sung by



DANCE: There are a huge number of songs to choose from

Dallas Green is a good choice for couples looking for something a little slower-paced. It also speeds up towards the end, offering the perfect opportunity for your guests to get involved in the dancing too.

Ed Sheeran - Thinking Out Loud

Released last year, this modern choice of song features lyrics which perfectly lend themselves to a first dance - marking the commitment

you are making by agreeing to spend the rest of your lives together.

Elton John - Your Song

This classic love song is a popular choice. It has also been covered by Ellie Goulding, so there are now two versions to choose from - the original or one with a new twist.

A Fine Frenzy - You Picked Me

For couples looking for something a

little different, this song could be perfect. It featured on alternative singer-songwriter Alison Sudol's debut album - One Shell in the Sea. Released in 2007, the song would be an original choice of first dance.

Madness - It Must Be Love

While this is a love song, Madness have injected their energy and sense of fun into it, giving it a good combination of being sweet but also



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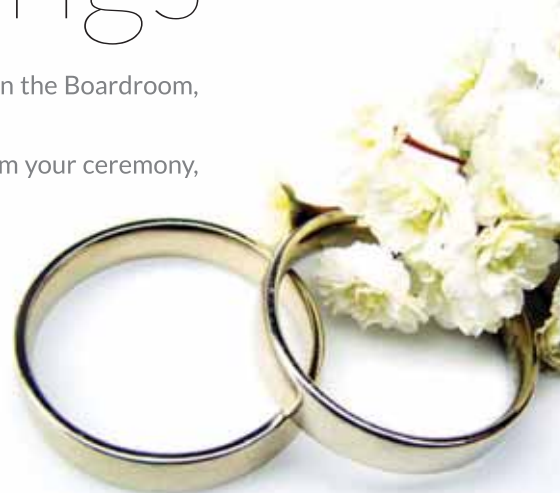
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light-hearted.

Jack Johnson- *Better Together*

This mellow song was released in 2005 on the album *In Between Dreams*. Slightly less traditional than some other first dance choices, it features some endearing lyrics and has a melody which is gentle but still spirited.



WEDDING: The song you choose will be personal to you both



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Additional day guests charged at £66pp, additional evening guests charged at £17.50pp

Sundays - £3,112.50 - available on: 10, 17, 24, 31 January, 7, 14, 21, 28 February, 6, 13, 27 March (usually £3,600.00)
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Pet parents choosing to invite their furry friends to wedding

MANY 'pet parents' see their furry friends every single day and share many elements of their lives with them.

There is no denying that getting a pet together is a big step forward in any relationship.

And once you both start caring for an animal, it becomes a big part of your life.

They are there on Christmas and birthdays, and it is easy to soon become accustomed to them being around during the momentous occasions in your life.

So it's understandable that many couples would want their pets to share their wedding with them too.

There are a large number of ways in which this could be done.

Perhaps you would like your pet to sit and watch the ceremony with your guests?

Or maybe they could have a starring role in the wedding – walking up the aisle with the rings for example, or accompanying the flower girl or bridesmaids.

If you have a horse, maybe you would be able to ride it to your reception?

Some people have even chosen to have their pet beside them while they are taking their vows.

However, there will be some considerations you need to make in order to ensure that having your pet involved in your special day goes as smoothly as it possibly can.

First and foremost, it's really important to think about what will make your pet the happiest.

Don't put them into a situation where they could feel intimidated or unsure about what's happening.

Of course, this will all depend on their individual personalities and it will need careful thought.

If smaller animals get shy or skittish, then perhaps being carried down the aisle would be preferable and make them feel more secure?



PETS: Many brides and grooms want their furry friends with them

This could be done by one of your trusted bridesmaids, or even by the bride in place of a wedding bouquet.

It would be advisable to make sure that, while the ceremony is happening, the pets are able to be near someone they know and trust – such as family members that they have previously spent time with.

Decide on who will be looking after them for most on the day and arrange to all spend time together so your pet can get used to them – if they are not already.

Whatever your decision, you must also inform your venue immediately.

If you have your heart set on your pets joining you on the day, and the venue doesn't allow it, then you may have to rethink where you would like to get married, or if your pet will be able to join you.

When you are putting in your initial enquiries and arranging to be given a tour of the venues, take the time to ask them so you know straight away what you're able to do.

Look around online to try and find pet-friendly venues in your local

area, or ask any animal lovers that you know if they have heard of anywhere that allows pets to be involved in the day.

Once the venue knows that you want your pet to be a part of the wedding, they will be able to inform others who will be working on the day and start making the necessary arrangements.

If you choose to have a wedding rehearsal, then this could be a good opportunity to see how your pet will respond to the situation.

It will also help them get used to their surroundings and know what they will be doing on the day.

Your guests will also need to be informed that you intend to have your pet at the wedding as soon as possible.

You might have a guest who is allergic to cats, or one who is petrified of dogs.

Let them know what's happening and then you can make your plans accordingly.

Either tell them before you have booked the venue, or include it on



CONSIDERATE: Make sure your pets are happy on the day

your save the date cards or your wedding invitations, informing people there will be pets at the wedding and encouraging them to call you or your fiancé if this is cause for concern.

Carefully arranging the seating could perhaps help to make the situation easier for all involved?

Also, consider what your pet will be doing once the ceremony is over. Is someone going to be trusted with the responsibility of taking them

home or will they be staying with you for the remainder of the day?

Remember everything they will need - food, plenty to drink, somewhere to sleep if they are feeling tired. Can the venue provide this?

Make sure your photographer knows that your pet will be involved in the wedding, as there will be great opportunities to get some brilliant shots of your furry friend throughout the day.



VARIETY: There are a number of ways your pet can be involved



Deciding the best way to recycle your bridal gown

YOU'VE had your special day and all the hard work and planning has paid off, but one question remains. What do you do with the wedding dress?

Granted, you could keep it in a safe place and pass it on to a family member when their wedding day comes around, but if you don't like that idea there are a few other options you might like to look into.

Instead, you could use the fabric to make something that can be used elsewhere in your home.

If you like sewing, or you are keen to do some arts and crafts, there are a number of things that the fabric could make.

You could make another - perhaps more informal - dress, a table cloth, photo frame, a bag, or even a lampshade out of the material.

If you still want to have a remaining piece of your dress to pass on when one of your own family members gets married, you could always make a ring pillow.

That way your relative would be able to have their wedding rings brought to them on it, and they could always pass it on, meaning that it would become something of a family heirloom.

Having these pieces of family history involved in a wedding ceremony can be extremely meaningful to many couples, and it is a



RECYCLE: There are options when it comes to what to do with your old wedding dress

good way to reuse a piece of the dress without keeping the whole thing.

If you would rather not recycle your dress in this way, another option would be to sell it.

Many brides will be looking for their dresses online, so there is always the option of going through a website such as Ebay if you are looking to sell yours.

Keep an eye on social media, to see if there is anyone looking to buy a wedding dress in the near future.

Others might choose to 'trash the

dress'. This method seems to be seeing a rise in popularity, and it involves brides taking part in photoshoots where the dress gets, quite literally, trashed.

Contact a photographers in your area to find out if they offer this.

For those who are looking to do a good deed, you could donate your wedding dress to a good cause.

There are many charity shops that would gratefully receive a wedding dress which they would then be able to sell on to raise funds.

If there is a cause that you believe strongly in, or a charity that you really support, donating your dress would be a good way to help them.

This could also be done if you decide to sell the dress online, with some of the profits going towards the charity of your choice.

Other charities will be able to use the dress for a good cause, for example Cherished Gowns For Angel Babies UK, which creates special items of clothing for babies who have died.



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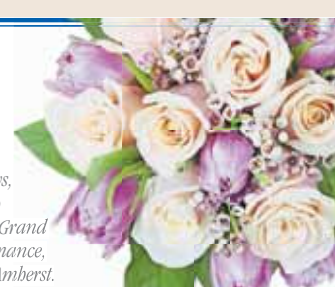




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Unearthed: The Victorian brick works which helped build town

The fascinating discovery was made during the widening of the A21 road. As **Chris Murphy** found out, it sheds light on the many bricks used in local houses and the furnaces they were created in...

A VICTORIAN brick works has been unearthed by contractors carrying out vital widening work of the A21.

The remarkably well preserved building remains almost complete along the stretch of the road between Pembury and Tonbridge.

It is currently seeing a £75million dualling project which should help ease one of the county's most notorious traffic blackspots.

But it seems likely the brick works, on Castle Hill, may not survive as work continues. Access to the site has been limited in order to prevent delays and it may have to be flattened. Although Highways England, the government agency carrying out the work, says "no final decisions have been made".

One of the few people granted access to the site was photographer Martin Garwood – whose pictures you can see on this page.

He told us: "It was truly incredible. I was allowed close enough to get some great shots."

The landscape photographer added: "I spotted an Oxford Archaeology van parked at the site over a number of days and realising that they were exploring what looked like the foundations of a building.

"After driving by a few times, I stopped and asked what was going on and was amazed to be told it was actually a Victorian brick works.

"It's a difficult site to access as contractors' vehicles are everywhere and the health and safety restrictions are very tight, so I returned early one Sunday to explore when work had stopped and took a series of photographs.

"I was amazed by the scale of the buildings and how well preserved they were considering they have been buried for many decades. I was also concerned that all the indications were that they were to be covered over again before anyone else would have the chance to see them.

"Local history groups in Tonbridge are very active and would be very interested in exploring the sites further – it seemed such a waste for the works to be recorded and then lost to view.

"It looks like the works date from the 1840s which was when the railways were reaching out to Tonbridge and prompting a surge of house building in the area.

"These works were one of many that would have been operating locally and one can only imagine the scene back then with the kilns operating all night and smoke billowing out over the woods and fields.

"I would think the works were sited there as there was good access to the right kind of clay near the surface and firewood. Bricks would have been left to dry in stacks before being loaded into the kilns to be baked at high tem-

peratures, the kilns being fired by wood fires or later coal, brought by cart from Tonbridge.

"Once the kilns had ceased operating, it looks like the whole site became a rubbish dump and was gradually filled in over time – there are fragments of china and glass all over the place. Old maps show both the kilns and also other interesting landmarks, there is an old firing range tucked in the woods there but it is in private woodland so not accessible."

Dr Toby Butler, Tonbridge historian and history lecturer at the University of East London, said: "The brick industry is very significant to the history of Tonbridge, not least because almost the entire town as it exists today is built out of them.

"Two of the biggest brick works in Tonbridge were owned by prominent local builders, George Punnett and William Chalkin. The Punnetts owned Quarry Hill Brick and Tile Works which became the biggest producer of hand-made bricks in the country. It even made bricks for restoration projects like Hampton Court Palace and Chevening House.

"The earliest record of the Castle Hill Brickworks discovered so far is 1838. At that time it would have been one of half a dozen brick works in and around Tonbridge, a town that had tripled in size since the Medway was made navigable in the 1740s.

"Castle Hill Brickworks was well outside the town and consisted of a brick field, clay pits, mills and a wood yard, which would have fuelled the two kilns. Maps show long structures nearby that must have been the drying sheds called hacks for the brick moulds.

"An 1889 photograph indicates there were about 16 employees, including three youths."

He said according to research by Frank Tullett for his book *Tonbridge Industrial Heritage*, with two kilns the Castle Hill Brickworks must surely have been a major producer and it was in production for well over 80 years.

He said: "Anyone living in a house locally dating between the 1840s and 1920s may well have been built almost entirely from the clay from this hill which was fired in these kilns.

"In the 1920s it ceased operation and by the 1930s it had become a piggery.

"Now the Castle Hill Brickworks site is visible, we can see most of the brick kilns were buried rather than destroyed. Only the roofs and chimneys are missing, the rest is in very good condition. Arches where the wood must have been burned are now visible and the ventilated kiln floors look ready for action.

"These remains are a dramatic reminder of a hugely significant local industry. It would be wonderful if a way could be found to preserve them."



FOUND: The Victorian brick works was found by workmen during the dualling of the A21 close to Tunbridge Wells



PICTURES: By Martin Garwood



Highways England project manager Anne-Marie Palmer said: "We have been working hard to protect the environment and history while we upgrade the A21 to reduce congestion and increase safety.

"We have unearthed some potential Victorian brick kilns and are working with archaeological specialists, including those from Kent County Council and Historic England, to analyse and document the find.

"Unfortunately as they are in a busy construction site we haven't been able to allow local groups to view without halting the construction work and potentially delaying the scheme."

Among the activities Highways England says it is carrying out on the project are the creation of 180,000 square metres of new woodland and the preservation of a listed barn.



WORK: Aerial view of the work between Pembury and Tonbridge



CHOICE: Around six million real trees will be sold for decorating this year in a market which is worth an estimated £150 million.

Branching out to cash in on fast growing Christmas tree market

In a few weeks' time you'll not be able to move without spotting a well decorated tree as the county gets ready for the festive season. And an increasing number will be grown right here (albeit slowly)

By Chris Murphy
editorial@kosmedia.co.uk

WHAT takes nearly a decade to grow and comes into our homes for just a few weeks before we toss it out to be turned into mulch?

The answer, of course, is the essential festive decoration – the Christmas tree. And the good news is that more and more of them are being grown right here in Kent.

The county may still be only a small player in what has become a £150 million industry for real trees nationwide, but thousands grown in our soils will be sold over the coming weeks, to take pride of place in homes and businesses.

It is estimated around six million will be bought in the UK this year – a number that has risen steadily from around 2m some 15 years ago.

But, traditionally, many have been imported, now, however, British growers are increasingly taking the plunge despite the fact a full size tree can take between eight and 12 years to reach maturity ready for the axe.

Edward Barham runs Hole Park Gardens, at Rolvenden, near Cranbrook, and is expecting another season of strong demand for his home grown harvest.

He told KoS: "We produce 14,000 trees in four varieties from under a metre in a pot to several metres.

"In Kent, we supply just a fraction of the UK total. There are only a couple of growers in the county.

"But here we are able to supply excellent quality trees to Kent and the south east that we feel they are far better than those imported."

The rise in demand has been fuelled by more and more people opting for a real tree to decorate rather than the artificial varieties.

Adds Mr Barham: "The big growers in the UK are in Scotland.

"It is an unusual market because there are no real numbers of how many trees are being produced and for whom. It is not like livestock which has to be counted and accounted for at every step.

"Anyone can sell Christmas trees. All we can do in Kent is produce the best trees we can for discerning buyers who know they are buying a tree that is grown locally.

"We do OK from selling our trees and because we are relatively small, we can custom build deliveries for all our customers. And of course we are only just starting to cut our trees, so they will be far fresher than those being imported which were probably cut many days ago."

Harry Brightwell, from the British Christmas Tree Growers' Association (BCTGA) explained the process most trees go through. He told KoS: "It takes around a decade to reach full height.

"It is bought as a seed, then transferred to a nursery for four years, and returned to a grower for seven years. It will be pruned and weeded throughout its lifecycle, and kept free of all bugs to ensure the healthiest trees are ready to buy in December."

The most popular variety are called

Nordman Fir which accounts for 80 per cent of the market, generally a more expensive tree but one where the needles are made of sterner stuff thus are proving increasingly popular.

They are followed by the Norway Spruce with around 15 per cent – these are the 'classic' trees with a pine scent and prone to the needles tumbling from the branches as our homes heat up.

So why are we shifting away from artificial trees? Association secretary Mr Brightwell explains: "The bulk of plastic trees are imported from China, enlarging their carbon footprint."

Expect to pay a similar price to last year too.

Mr Brightwell added: "We expect prices to be very similar to last year

"For a six to seven feet Nordman grown by a BCTGA member, you will most likely be paying in the region of £45 to £55. For a Norway Spruce this would be between £25 and £35 typically.

"Prices do vary across the country, and premium trees can cost more."

Just make sure you choose well to ensure your carpet doesn't become knee-deep in needles.

Mr Brightwell said: "A fresh tree will have a healthy green appearance with few browning needles. Needles should be flexible and not fall off if you run a branch through your hand.

Raise the tree a few inches off the ground and drop it on the butt end. Very few green needles should drop off the tree but it is normal for a few inner brown needles to fall."

Once you have your tree at home, it is best that about half an inch is cut off the butt in order to open up the pores of the tree.

He added: "It should be kept outside in a cool shaded place, standing in water, until it is required indoors. When the tree is brought indoors mount it in a water-holding stand and place it away from direct heat.

"Keep the container topped up with water every day – you will be surprised how much the tree drinks."

WHY NOT GROW YOUR OWN?

MORE and more people are taking to growing their own trees, but it will take some dedication.

Harry Brightwell, from the British Christmas Tree Growers' Association, said preparation and patience are vital.

He said: "Growing a Christmas tree isn't a quick project as a decent sized one for a lounge will take around 10 years.

"That said, if you are determined you can have the personal satisfaction of growing your own tree.

"Select a good site. Generally they are hardy but it's still important to go for a site with good drainage, with good sunlight and ideally not too open to wind."

Planting periods vary, but around Easter is the best.



He adds: "Ensure the area is roomy as these tree grow width-ways too. Protect it with a mesh like material and use a herbicide to keep unwanted weeds at bay.

"Weeding will need to be a priority over the next few years,

keeping the area around the tree clear. How long you wait depends on how large and impressive you want the end result to be. You may be happy after three or four years, but waiting 10 will reveal better results."



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Women Seeking

REMEMBER: Calls cost £1.55 per minute plus your phone company's access charge. Texts cost £1.50 per message received.

SINGLE slim female, 68, n/s, GSOH, likes cooking, walking etc, seeks male, single, slim 65-70, n/s, with similar interests. Tel No: 0906 515 7112 Box No: 420091

KATIE 35yrs, slender well educated brunette seeks no strings mutual pleasure with gent 40+. Must be discreet, married or single. ACA. Tel: 0906 515 4290 Box 419673

SLIM female GSOH, 53, Likes walking, pub lunches, days out, looking for soul mate, smart appearance, similar interests N/S GSOH, easy going. Text only to Mailbox no: 4762600

DISCREET man wanted by married lady for no strings fun. I'm called Sarah and am 37yrs. P's call. ACA. Tel: 0906 515 4298 Box 418167

KIND lady, 50s, been broken hearted, seeks kind, genuine man for caring relationship. Tel No: 0906 515 7112 Box No: 419889

JANE, young 41, very broadminded seeks chap any age for discreet no strings fun, any age, no time wasters ACA. Tel: No: 0906 515 4287 Box: 409715

PAT, slim, single, 68, non-smoker, GSOH, likes going for walks etc, seeks male, slim, single, 66-70, non-smoker, clean-shaven, GSOH, with similar interests. Canterbury area. Tel No: 0906 515 7112 Box No: 419081

MAUREEN, discreet sensual lady, 42yrs seeks daytime fun at her home. ACA. Tel: 0906 515 4274 Box: 405297

MARION, early 70s, young at heart, GSOH, active, likes walking, gardening, meals out, travel, theatre and animals, looking for male friendship to share interests. Tel No: 0906 515 7112 Box No: 419657

mydate24

ATTRACTIVE solvent business woman, 36yrs, seeks discreet gent 25+ for no strings discreet fun. ACA. Tel: 0906 515 4692 Box 419701

CHANTELLE, 5ft3 light brown/blonde hair, blue eyes, like nights in/out, walks, animals, romance seeks honest guy Littlehampton. Text only to Mailbox no: 4923883

CHLOE, pretty brunette, 30yrs good job but lacking male with a naughty side, is that you, age unimportant. Text only to Mailbox no: 4057558

MARIE, very lovely middle-aged woman, looking for a kind hearted older man, late 70s/early 80s for friendship/companionship. Tel No: 0906 515 7112 Box No: 418955

MELANIE, tanned, toned, young 41yrs divorcee with own flat, working, solvent, just missing a chap. Text only to Mailbox no: 4112160

RACHEL, late 40s, blonde, blue eyes and very voluptuous. Looking for a kind, caring honest man. Tel No: 0906 515 7112 Box No: 418741

AMANDA, 36, tall, slim, busty brunette seeks man, any age, any area, for discreet daytime fun. Tel No: 0906 515 7112 Box No: 418117

HELEN, widow 58, medium build, 5ft 4ins, blonde, GSOH, likes a chat, days out, looking to start again with someone of similar age. Tel No: 0906 515 7112 Box No: 376243

ESSEX lady, mid 60's, adaptable, seeking nice male, likes most things. Tel No: 0906 515 7112 Box No: 418537

FEMALE seeking male for adult fun. Tel No: 0906 515 7112 Box No: 413809

FEMALE, 59, GSOH, many interests, seeks caring male for fun friendship maybe more, genuine calls only. Text only to Mailbox No: 4819793

GORGEOUS flower, Ashford Kent, 51, larger lady, large personality, easy going, seeks male who likes dogs, animals for relationship. Tel No: 0906 515 7112 Box No: 417435

FEMALE easy going, kind, loving, genuine, romantic, car boots, gardening, seeking male with GSOH. Tel No: 0906 515 7112 Box No: 417603

PAT, 68, young at heart, slim, proud 4' 11" GSOH, N/S, likes walking etc Whistable area, seeks similar slim easy going male 60-70. Tel No: 0906 515 7112 Box No: 419081

SUSIE fit, friendly, looking for someone to love and look after me, preferably older, N/S male own car. Tel No: 0906 515 7112 Box No: 392537

HAPPY young looking lady, 62, likes socialising, conversation, seeking nice man to share good times with. Tel No: 0906 515 7112 Box No: 407383

KATIE, 5ft 5, slim dark hair, very attractive female, likes most things in life and a good laugh, looking for a similar male. Text only to Mailbox No: 4722127

NICE female looking for decent genuine male for friendship to start out with. Text only to Mailbox No: 4710874

BLONDE female, 5ft 1ins, size 12, likes meals out, drinks, nights in, walks, seeks male. Tel No: 0906 515 7112 Box No: 409025

JAN 63, young at heart, petite, 5ft 2ins, brown hair, blue eyes, GSOH, likes cooking, countryside, travel, days out, seeks easy going male, 60-70. Tel No: 0906 515 7112 Box No: 416349

ATTRACTIVE lady early 50's, petite, Scandinavian blonde professional, W/LTM professional, caring, gentle, 50-60's for attention and future together. Tel No: 0906 515 7112 Box No: 416569

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RACHEL attractive, blue eyes, blonde, voluptuous, seeking kind, honest, generous kind male. Tel No: 0906 515 7112 Box No: 418403

JAN 63, young at heart, petite, 5ft 2ins, brown hair, blue eyes, GSOH, likes cooking, countryside, travel, days out, seeks easy going male, 60-70. Tel No: 0906 515 7112 Box No: 416349

ALISON 39, petite with long brown hair, hazel eyes, very loving, seeking similar male for an uncomplicated relationship. Tel No: 0906 515 7112 Box No: 416517

ALISON 30, pretty, slim with long brown hair, fit and active seeks fit older male for energetic relationship. Tel No: 0906 515 7112 Box No: 416497

DEBORAH 41, intelligent brunette, lovely brown eyes, discreet, many interests, seeks similar male to share fun and good conversation. Tel No: 0906 515 7112 Box No: 416515

ATTRACTIVE black, athletic lady, varied interests, seeks similar white, old fashioned, genuine male for relationship. Tel No: 0906 515 7112 Box No: 416215

MAY sexy black African female, 38, hardworking, seeks generous friendly male for mutual rewarding friendship. Tel No: 0906 515 7112 Box No: 416211

SUE young at heart, good looking, enjoy life, socialising, beach walks, gardening, theatre, seeking male, 55-65 to share life with. Tel No: 0906 515 7112 Box No: 416171

JACKIE 32, attractive professional, very smart and feminine, long brown hair, seeks smart, confident, older male who knows how to treat a lady. Tel No: 0906 515 7112 Box No: 416297

JANINE 36, faithful, sincere, never stray seeking similar male. Tel No: 0906 515 7112 Box No: 416293

Men Seeking

REMEMBER: Calls cost £1.55 per minute plus your phone company's access charge. Texts cost £1.50 per message received.

HUBERT, lives in Rochester, single, lonely, looking for someone to get together with and make something happen and enjoy the rest of life with! Tel No: 0906 515 7112 Box No: 420049

DAVID, 39yrs, divorced with no ties, lovely flat in Spain, seeks travel companion, single mums welcome. Text only to Mailbox no: 414225

PAUL 52, seeks loving female for exciting times, meals out, weekends away, cosy nights in. Tel No: 0906 515 7112 Box No: 418077

GARETH handsome 40's pilot, strong tall build, seeks daytime discreet passion with lady 30-65. Tel No: 0906 515 7112 Box No: 414421

MALE 56, likes good conversation, seeks older lady for discreet friendly fun, 50 plus. Tel No: 0906 515 7112 Box No: 419201

YOUNG 60yr old male, knows how to treat a lady, seeking special lady to spoil for LTR. Tel No: 0906 515 7112 Box No: 417909

MICK 50, seeks attractive female for nice times out, genuine calls only. Tel No: 0906 515 7112 Box No: 417691

PAUL 49 5ft 8ins likes eating/nights in/out seeks loving female for LTR. Tel No: 0906 515 7112 Box No: 404013

YOUNG 60yr old male, slim, GSOH, adventurous, outgoing, likes most things, seeks easygoing, laidback, open-minded lady for friendship and good times. Tel No: 0906 515 7112 Box No: 399539

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MALE, 39, tall, hardworking, 6ft 2, looking for long-term lover/older woman. Tel No: 0906 515 7112 Box No: 418877

PAUL GSOH, 5ft 8ins, medium build, seeking Miss Right for LTR to put the spark back into life. Tel No: 0906 515 7112 Box No: 391970

PROFESSIONAL, romantic male, 44, likes meals out, cinema, music, holidays, seeks female, 30-55 for LTR. Tel No: 0906 515 7112 Box No: 250195

PAUL 48, 5ft 8ins, GSOH, likes music, cinema, seeks female for fun, friendship and LTR. Tunbridge Wells. Tel No: 0906 515 7112 Box No: 371985

MALE 51, 5ft 8ins, N/S, GSOH, easygoing, seeks slim female, 18-45 for friendship, maybe more. Tel No: 0906 515 7112 Box No: 338269

ROCKABILIY guy, seeks rock chick, 25-50 who likes 50's rock music and bands. Tel No: 0906 515 7112 Box No: 284750

CLINT, 37, kind, caring, honest and W/LTM someone of any age who is similar and looking for a relationship. Tel No: 0906 515 7112 Box No: 419951

White Knight 59 5'10" tall, OHAC, in shining armor, looking for Damsel in Distress of similar age to share fun & laughter. Text only to Mailbox no: 5073004

CALM, kind and good company, male seeking a lovely lady for good times and fun and loving. Tel No: 0906 515 7112 Box No: 419733

BECKY 23, classy blonde, long blonde hair, blue eyes seeks loving older guy to spoil and pamper her. Discretion assured/guaranteed. Tel No: 0906 515 7112 Box No: 416233

LINDA 26, cheeky, curvy brunette, a little shy at first, likes to look after herself, seeks dark haired male for discreet naughty but fun times. Tel No: 0906 515 7112 Box No: 416195

TERESA 39, petite, cuddly and bubbly seeks kind older male to travel, have fun, and take care of, pamper and flirt with. Tel No: 0906 515 7112 Box No: 416081

LUCY stunning tall brunette, looking for exciting times, seeks like-minded, adventurous male who is willing to try anything once or maybe even twice! Tel No: 0906 515 7112 Box No: 416079

BLONDE female, 47, looking for fun, sensual, experienced, understanding, seeking similar. Tel No: 0906 515 7112 Box No: 415675

PETITE Asian lady, slim, N/S, seeks genuine N/S male for winning/dining, fun and frolics. Tel No: 0906 515 7112 Box No: 414515

REMEMBER: Calls cost £1.55 per minute plus your phone company's access charge. Texts cost £1.50 per message received.

45 year old male, looking for a happy intelligent friendly female for company and evenings in or out, looks or race unimportant. Text only to Mailbox no: 5063649

JOHN, 47, six foot two, well-built, handsome, non-smoker, intelligent and funny, doesn't take himself too seriously, easy to get along with, seeks attractive female, any age, for discreet, adventurous, any time fun. Tel No: 0906 515 7112 Box No: 419461

NICE looking genuine man would like to meet nice lady any age for company, outings with GSOH. Text only to Mailbox no: 4922399

ANDREW, 63, likes animals, walking, boot fairs, shopping, looking for someone similar living in the Maidstone/Kent area, for possible LTR. Tel No: 0906 515 7112 Box No: 419203

RICHARD 59 from East Kent. W/LTM genuine female 50 plus for friendship! Text only to Mailbox No: 4448765

MALE 56 yrs, GSOH, n/s, would like to meet a lady to have happy times, lots of love to give, to enjoy good times in and out. Text only to Mailbox No: 4181244

MIKE from Canterbury 57, medium build, GSOH, varied interests, sign language interpreter, seeks slim female, 21-42 for LTR. Single mum welcome. Tel No: 0906 515 7112 Box No: 379673

SHINEY young lady, slim-medium build, 24-38 sought by mature male in Canterbury. Tel No: 0906 515 7112 Box No: 405697

MIKE Canterbury mature male, seeks single mum/lady, 28-42, slim-medium build for loving, caring relationship. Tel No: 0906 515 7112 Box No: 415275

WRITER tall, slim, dark hair, generous, seeking broadminded lady for fun times. Any age/status. Tel No: 0906 515 7112 Box No: 412749



SUGAR D a d d y available! Mature, tall, slim, natural dark hair, seeks lady, age unimportant. Not afraid of commitment. Tel No: 0906 515 7112 Box No: 418889

SIMON, 50, actor, loves music, films, reading, writing, loopholes, ambiguity, Thailand, Singapore and Indonesia, W/LTM a pretty leggy female, 35 years plus for friendship. Tel No: 0906 515 7112 Box No: 418827

MALE 57, seeking honest, reliable, genuine lady for friendship, maybe more. Tel No: 0906 515 7112 Box No: 418535

50YR old divorced white male, passionate, strong, seeking caring lady for romantic, loving relationship. Tel No: 0906 515 7112 Box No: 418641

Who's caught your eye? Let them know you might be interested by sending them a WINK...

Simply Text: WINK 2 + Adverb + 80098

49YR old male, 6ft, well built, seeks female to wine/dine and have fun with. Tel No: 0906 515 7112 Box No: 390929

48YR old divorced male, 6ft, well built, seeks lady for fun and laughter. Tel No: 0906 515 7112 Box No: 380789

BARRY 47, 6ft, well built, seeks female for winning, dining and fun times. Tel No: 0906 515 7112 Box No: 361787

VINCENT 48, 6ft, well built, seeks lady for fun nights in and laughs with. Tel No: 0906 515 7112 Box No: 377397

HAPPY go lucky divorced man, 48, 6ft, well built, seeks gorgeous female to share love and uncomplicated fun. Tel No: 0906 515 7112 Box No: 383719

69YR old male, professional, 5ft 10ins, fit, medium build, young outlook, reliable, sincere, likes most things, seeks slim, slender, uncomplicated lady. Tel No: 0906 515 7112 Box No: 418531

GARY 48, 6ft, well-built, dark hair, brown eyes, seeks passionate female for fun times in and out. Tel No: 0906 515 7112 Box No: 387175

BARRY 49, 6ft, well built, kind, affectionate, loving, seeks special lady for good times. Tel No: 0906 515 7112 Box No: 393855

MALE 70's, fit, looking for lady to share life with. Tel No: 0906 515 7112 Box No: 416663

HARRY 50, ex soldier, 6ft, well built, seeking lady to wine and dine. Tel No: 0906 515 7112 Box No: 417015

MALE 57, seeking honest, reliable, genuine lady for friendship, maybe more. Tel No: 0906 515 7112 Box No: 418535

Gay Seeking

REMEMBER: Calls cost £1.55 per minute plus your phone company's access charge. Texts cost £1.50 per message received.

Bl male 57 slim GSOH seeks local guy for fun and friendship. Text only to Mailbox No: 4751943

JESSICA, 53 yrs old, feminine, sexy, smooth body seeking gay or bi man for fun, must be non-smoker. Tel No: 0906 515 7112 Box No: 418713

FEMININE, sexy, cross-dresser, non-smoker, seeking cross-dresser gay or bi guy for fun. Must be non-smoker. Text only to Mailbox No: 4866072

27YR old male, bi-curious, feminine, TV, seeks similar. Tel No: 0906 515 7112 Box No: 413619

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START: Ready for action; the competitors get under way tackling one of two courses designed to give a taste of what it is like to train like the crack Royal Marines

Getting down and dirty as fresh Commando challenge is big hit

Hundreds flocked to the picturesque Hever Castle last weekend to be put through their paces in the latest tough obstacle event which has so far proved to be a bit hit with competitors young and old alike

By Chris Britcher

chris.britcher@archant.co.uk

MORE than 700 people descended on Hever Castle at the weekend to get down and dirty in the first Commando Series endurance race. Men, women and children took part in either a 6km or 12km obstacle course at the picturesque location – the latest in a series of increasingly popular endurance events.

Tackling exact replicas of the obstacles used by the Royal Marine Commandos at the training centre in Devon, participants could either just set themselves the target to complete the course – or tackle it as if they were a commando.

The course record for the fastest time, taking two laps of the route, was set by Dean Statmann from London, in one hour 25 minutes.

Some of the more well-known obstacles included the dreaded Sheep Dip and a 30m neck deep wading pool but wannabe recruits powered through each test with the help of Royal Marine Commandos stationed at each stop.

All the finishers made it to the top of the last obstacle, the 12ft wall, conquering the biggest test of all.

Blind runner Alison Mead and her guide, Great Britain athlete, Roz McGinty completed the entire course together finishing all the obstacles.

Ms McGinty said: "Who knew mud and water could be so fun. It was simply awesome; tough, well-organised with a fab variety of obstacles."

The Commando Series is endorsed by national charity partner, The Royal Marines Charitable Trust (RMCT). The RMCT is the overarching Royal Marines' charity, which aims to raise funds to help provide a better quality of life to serving and retired Royal Marines and their families.

Brian Adcock, commando in chief, founder of the Commando Series and ex-Royal Marine, added: "This is the first year we've held the Commando and after an incredible response from the public we're looking forward to hosting several more events across the UK in 2016.

Everyone who's taken part this weekend has showed incredible Commando spirit by getting stuck in, getting muddy and having a great time."

REAL LIFE ROYAL MARINE BEHIND THE LATEST OBSTACLE COURSE...

THE Commando Series is designed to give participants the chance to experience just a little of what life is like to become a Commando – one of the most demanding jobs in the world.

Granted, to be a Royal Marine you need to have first undergone 26-weeks of rigorous basic training followed by a four-week 'Commando course' which includes such treats as a nine-mile speed march, an endurance course, and assault course and finally a 30-mile trek across Dartmoor. All of which, while carrying a weapon and 21lbs of kit.

Based in Penshurst, near Tonbridge, the Commando Series doesn't put its participants through quite such a rigorous series of tests. It does, however, give you a bit of a taster, with an assault course which features a host of challenges.

There are some 15 obstacles with each having two levels depending on the type of participant you are and the way in which you want the instructors, positioned at each piece of equipment, to react.

Those taking part have the choice of being 'treated like a Commando' and yelled at accordingly, 'just get me round' where you'll get insider advice, or 'we are family' where there's a



helping hand and support on offer.

The man behind the series is Brian Adcock who spent seven years in the Royal Marines as a helicopter pilot.

As well as holding the Tarzan/assault course record for two years (part of that final four weeks of commando test), he went on to become a troop commander at 42 Commando Royal Marines.

Soon after going 'outside', he set-up Matrix Events Limited; the owners of the Castle Triathlon Series and Run Or Dye Europe and one of the leading mass participation event organisers in Europe. Both have been staged at Hever Castle.





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PANTO AT THE PAVILION - *Aladdin*

Sunday, 13th December 2015

Join Aladdin, Wishee Washee, Widow Twankey and the lovely Princess Jasmine as they endure the evil Abanazar and his wicked plans to become the most powerful ruler of them all... With a whole host of other magical characters to meet... you are in for a real panto treat... 'Oh Yes You Are'! Start the evening with supper with the stars.

£35 per person half price for children under 12

Two course supper in The Pavilion Restaurant followed by the performance. Supper from 4.30 pm. Performance 6.30 pm

CHRISTMAS BALLS

Friday 11th December & Friday 18th December 2015*

BOXING DAY BALL

Saturday 26th December 2015

The evenings commence with a champagne and canapé reception in the Great Hall followed by a special four course dinner including coffee and petits fours. After dinner enjoy dancing to our resident live band.*

£95 per person Black Tie Events

VEGAS NIGHT

Sunday, 27th December 2015

An entertaining, American-themed evening of glitz and glamour. Black Tie or Tuxedo optional and a chance for the ladies to sparkle. Start the evening with a 'Vegas' cocktail at 7.00 pm followed by our 'American' menu finishing with coffee and popcorn. Enjoy the sound of our smooth 'Sinatra' style singer with dancing in the Great Hall and try your luck at the 'fun' casino and blackjack tables.*

£80 per person

MOTOWN NIGHT

Monday, 28th December 2015

The evening commences at 7.00 pm with a 'Motown' Cocktail. A superb dinner awaits you in the Manor Restaurant followed by live singers "Motown Magic" - dance the night away to favourite Motown tunes.*

£80 per person

1980'S DISCOTHEQUE

Tuesday, 29th December 2015

Join us in the Great Hall at 7.00 pm where we will be serving Piña Coladas before going through to the Manor Restaurant and savouring a typical 1980's menu. After dinner our resident DJ will play 1980's music and keep you dancing all night long.*

£80 per person

*until midnight

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400	1200	1052	£103.60	£74.00
400	1600	1390	£154.00	£110.00
500	800	859	£86.80	£62.00
500	1000	1015	£96.60	£69.00
500	1200	1240	£105.00	£75.00
500	1600	1638	£166.60	£119.00
500	1800	1882	£180.66	£129.00
600	800	995	£86.80	£62.00
600	1000	1174	£102.20	£73.00
600	1200	1439	£110.60	£79.00
600	1600	1899	£172.20	£123.00
600	1800	2184	£184.87	£133.00



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400	1200	1052	£107.80	£77.00
400	1600	1390	£162.00	£116.00
500	800	859	£93.80	£67.00
500	1000	1015	£101.47	£73.00
500	1200	1240	£110.60	£79.00
500	1600	1638	£169.40	£121.00
500	1800	1882	£183.40	£131.00
600	800	995	£92.40	£66.00
600	1000	1174	£105.00	£75.00
600	1200	1439	£166.20	£83.00
600	1600	1899	£177.80	£127.00
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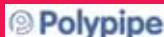
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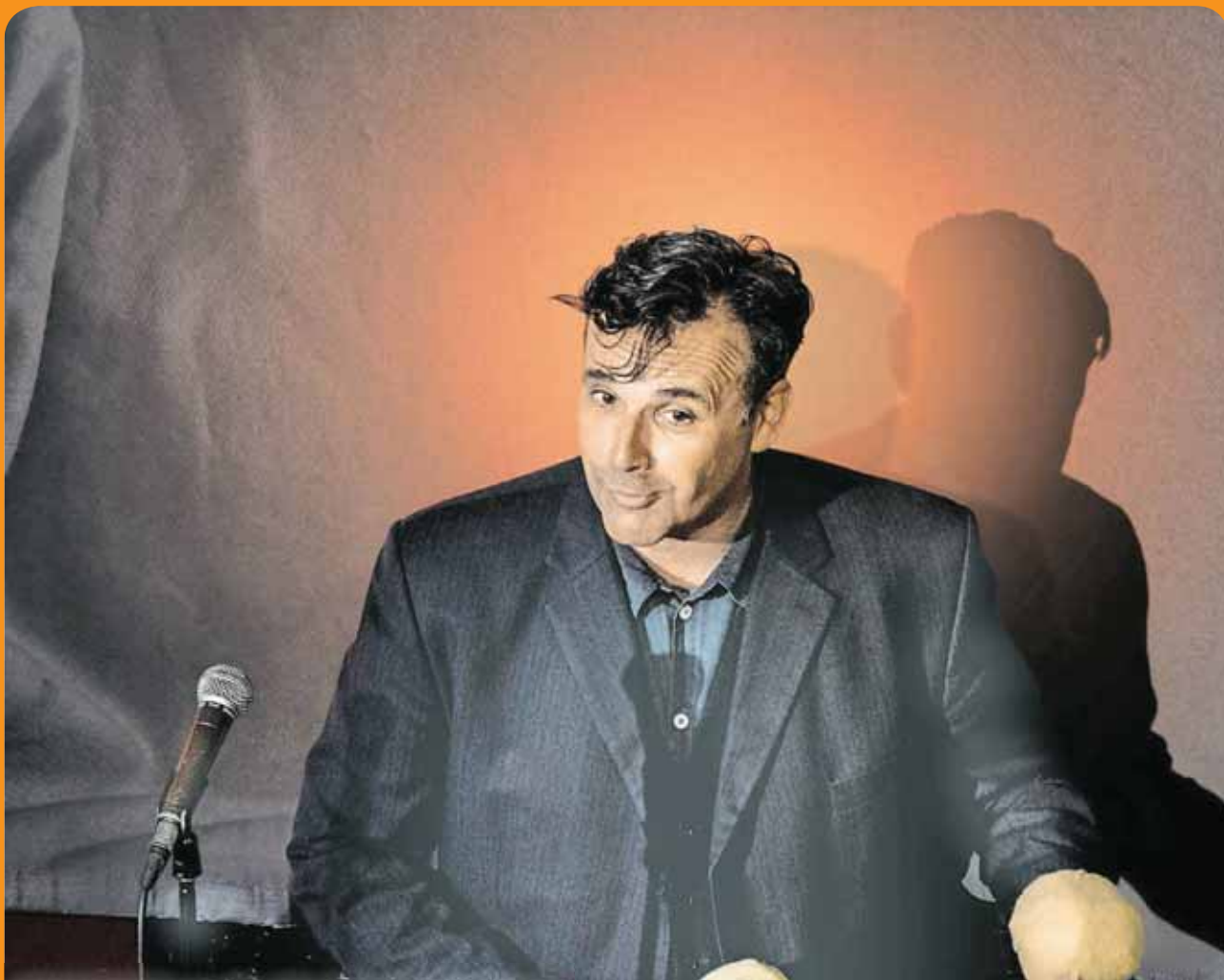
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SCEPTICAL: The comedian will be delving into different areas

Robert Newman's sceptical viewpoint on neuroscience

The comedian will perform two Kent dates next year, writes **Molly Kersey-Law**

COMEDIAN Robert Newman will be bringing his new show to Kent as it embarks on a national tour.

The Brain Show will be performed in Maidstone and Canterbury next year.

The performance will see Mr Newman take a sceptical approach to some of the claims made by neuroscience.

Mr Newman said: "I am impatient and excited to get this show on the road at long last.

"I'm so relieved that, after so much rehearsal and writing and warm-ups, the show will finally be seen by audiences up and down the land. I'm psyched by the fact that nobody anywhere in the world is doing a show like this right now.

"But the biggest buzz comes from the fact that in 25 years I have nev-

er written comedy as good as this."

The show will explore questions such as whether brain scans can read our minds.

"What the show does is take a sceptical stance towards some of the grand claims advanced by neuroscience," added Mr Newman.

"It's exploring everything from the neurobiology of romantic love to the thought-processes of stripy spiders. I talk about Stonehenge, robot co-workers, the right hemisphere of Paul Weller, the evolutionary origins of smiles and laughter. There's also a tricky, insinuating character called Brian Scanlon, and my doomed attempts to impress a neuroscientist called Natasha."

The Brain Show features electronic props such as a live brain-imaging electroencephalograph (EEG) hat, which gives the audience

a read-out of Mr Newman's mental state during the show.

He'll also be enlisting the help of a fake bobtail squid and - sometimes - a skull xylophone.

"I've got a brace of oversized Hawaiian bobtail squid in my valise, then I also carry a massive 'brain hat' around in a djembe bag.

"Only the African drummers' bag will hold this thing.

"I refer to it as 'the brain', and get funny looks when people overhear me say things like: 'I won't need my brain in the first half tonight.' Or 'they won't let me take my brain on the escalator.'"

Mr Newman, who has also written four books and has a Radio 4 series, said that he really enjoys performing.

"Stand-up is addictive. Right after a gig I start counting the days and hours until the next one.

"There is no joy like the joy of an audience giving you a big back-of-the-room laugh.

"I have never seen another comic get anywhere near as wound up as I do before a gig. Other comedians are often alarmed by how intense and heavy I get, by how I look like someone in grief or mourning, how I am sick with adrenaline even before a new material night in a room above a pub.

"And then, the moment I get out in front of the audience I feel entirely happy and at ease. Performing is a great release."

The Brain Show will be at the Hazlitt Theatre, Maidstone, on February 6th and the Gulbenkian Theatre, Canterbury, on February 13.

For tickets to the Maidstone performance call 01622 758611. To book tickets for the Canterbury show call 01227 769075

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Agatha Christie's well-loved murder mystery in Dartford

by Molly Kersey-Law

molly.kersey-law@archant.co.uk

AGATHA Christie's beloved murder mystery *The Mousetrap* will be making its way to Dartford as part of its 60th anniversary tour.

The show made its West End debut in 1952 and it has been running continuously ever since.

It recently celebrated its 26,000th performance, and it has been the world's longest-running stage production since breaking the record in 1958.

The *Mousetrap* will be performed at the Orchard Theatre from May 16 to 21, 2016.

The murder mystery centres around a group of people staying in a house together, who discover that there is a killer in their midst.

The characters gradually reveal information about their backgrounds, until the last moment of suspense when the killer's motive is revealed.

It has become a tradition that audiences are asked not to reveal the identity of the murderer to anyone outside of the theatre - as the production's ending remaining a



SUSPENSE: The cast of *The Mousetrap*. Credit: Hugo Glendinning

surprise was hugely important for Dame Agatha.

Louise Jameson will be taking on the role of Mrs Boyle in the production.

She is well-known for her previous roles in BBC soap *EastEnders*, where she played Rosa di Marco, and *Doctor Who*, where she starred as Leela, the companion to Tom Baker's Doctor.

Her stage credits include *Oedi-*

pus, *Gutted*, *Noises Off* and *Love, Loss and What I wore*.

Speaking about the production, Ms Jameson said: "I thought about doing something special for my 65th birthday in 2016.

"Just how did I get to be 65?

"The same way *The Mousetrap* has run for nearly that length of time I suppose, just second by second time has ticked away we've both lasted this long, and so we'll

be celebrating together." She added: "That's quite special."

Performances will be taking place at 2.30pm and 7.30pm.

Tickets to the show range from £18 to £33.50.

For more information about the performances, or to book tickets to the show, you can visit www.orchardtheatre.co.uk.

Alternatively call the ticket office on 01322 220000.

Carrott will rock Margate

COMEDIAN and musician Jasper Carrott will be bringing his new show, *Stand Up and Rock*, to Margate Winter Gardens on Thursday (November 26) at 7.30pm.

Call 01843 292795 to book.



Treat for Wimpy Kid fans

FAMILY show *Wimpy Kid* will be performed at the Folkestone Quarterhouse.

Host Alastair Watson will be bringing the *Diary of a Wimpy Kid* books to life with a number of fun activities on Saturday (November 28) at 11am.

Call 01303 760750 for more details.

Popular panto Aladdin

PANTOMIME *Aladdin* will be performed at the Leas Cliff Hall, Folkestone.

The show will run from December 22 to January 9 2016.

To book, call 01303 228600.



Ross Noble back on stage

ROSS Noble will be bringing his new comedy show to Maidstone early next year.

Ross Noble: *Brain Dump* will be performed at the Hazlitt Theatre on January 18.

Tickets to the show start at £16.50 and the performance is suitable for those over 15.

Visit www.parkwoodtheatres.co.uk to book.

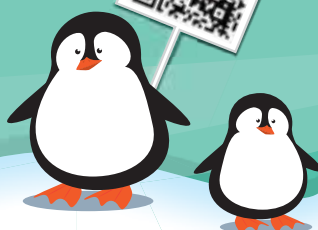
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Blue Skies film screening

ARTIST Lucy Joyce will show her film presentation Blue Skies at the New Century Cinema, High Street, Sittingbourne, on Wednesday (November 25). For details, email ootosittingbourne@gmail.com.



Miss Nightingale on stage

MUSICAL Miss Nightingale will be performed at the Theatre Royal, Margate, in January.

The show will run from January 20 to 22. Tickets to the performance are £18, or £16 with concessions.

For more information, or to book, call the box office on 01843 292795.

Christmas events in store

CHRISTMAS events will be taking place at Groombridge Place and Gardens on December 5 and 6, 12 and 13 and daily from December 18 to 24.

Activities on offer include live storytelling and street theatre.



Festive film in Canterbury

FESTIVE film The Muppet Christmas Carol will be screened at the Curzon Cinema, Canterbury, next month.

Screenings will be taking place on December 6 at 10.30am and December 19 at 10.30am.

Tickets are £3.

For details, visit www.curzoncinemas.com.

Sound of The Beatles at Churchill Theatre

By Molly Kersey-Law

molly.kersey-law@archant.co.uk

THE sound of The Beatles will be heading to Bromley next year.

Let It Be, which has already been performed in the West End and on Broadway, will be embarking on a national tour.

The show will be charting the band's beginnings in Liverpool's Cavern Club through the height of 'Beatlemania' to their later studio creations.

It features 40 of The Beatles' greatest hits including Twist and Shout, Yesterday, She Loves You, Hey Jude, Come Together and the show's title song Let It Be.

The show will be performed at the Churchill Theatre from January 25 to 30 2016 as part of its national tour.

It has been performed to audiences in countries including Germany, Japan and France and seen by more than a million people worldwide.

Producer Jeff Parry, of Annerin Productions, said: "We're incredibly proud to announce Let It Be's biggest tour to date.

"We are extremely excited to



bring the show to Churchill Theatre, Bromley, and we're sure that Bromley audiences will be on their feet – dancing, singing and very much being part of the concert."

He added: "It's more than 50 years since The Beatles released their first single, yet the band still continue to win new generations of fans.

"The songs still feel fresh and vibrant which is testament to the fab four's music and talent.

"Let It Be is helping to keep the

story and songs of the band alive and charm new fans.

"Money can't buy you love, but it can buy you tickets to the hottest show on tour."

Performances will be taking place at 2.30pm and 7.30pm and tickets range from £22.90 to £37.90.

For more information about the show, or to book tickets to the performances, you can visit www.atgtickets.com/bromley.

Alternatively you can call the box office on 0844 871 7620.



HITS: Some 40 songs will be included



SUCCESS: The show will be performed in Bromley

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Fearnley-Whittingstall says don't scoff at scraps

The celebrity chef speaks about his new book, which is encouraging people not to waste their food...

“I haven't got any recipes for completely mouldy lemons that have gone blue, but if it's mouldy at one end, then I'll cut that end off and use the other half,” says Hugh Fearnley-Whittingstall, being quite serious.

This is, after all, a man who was once nicknamed “Hugh Fearlessly-Eatsitall”, and his latest book, *Love Your Leftovers*, sets out to get everyone else doing the same.

The 50-year-old celebrity chef, famed for his *River Cottage* series and books, is horrified at the amount of food and leftovers we chuck in the bin, and sees odds and ends as “a really legitimate source of ingredients”.

“More than half the meals I put together incorporate something from a

previous meal, or something that's knocking around or needs eating up, that's wagging its finger at me saying, ‘If you don't eat me soon I'll be on the compost,’” he said.

“This is something that's very ingrained in me, but talking to others, it's something people don't always have a lot of confidence around,” he says, explaining the drive behind the new book.

“There's a lot we can do to get the best out of our ingredients, throw less away, to save money and address what is amounting to a major environmental problem, and we can all do our bit.

“But it doesn't have to be done out of a sense of guilty conscience, it can be done with a great sense of joy and



CHEF: Hugh Fearnley-Whittingstall is combatting food waste in his book

excitement, because – here's the real crux of it – I've always found the dishes I spin out of leftovers to be the most satisfying and delicious.”

From salvaged greens and leftover lamb transformed into a Shepherd's pie, the *Old Etonian* does also include recipes for crispy fish skeletons (which he admits is going “out on a limb”) and potato peel soup.

“You can actually spin a really original and delicious little snack from a mackerel skeleton and a little bit of spice from the cupboard,” he buzzes.

Mr Fearnley-Whittingstall's obsession with leftovers is just one of the many strands of food waste he abhors. His recent BBC series, *Hugh's War On Waste*, set out to challenge

people and companies to radically reduce the amount of food waste they produce.

“Food waste is a solvable problem. We just need to be a bit smart about how we address that, and if we're going to demand that of the supermarkets – and I think we should – we also have to be ready to do our bit,” he explained.

Regardless of the options available, for this foodie, organic, home-grown produce will always be his ideal.

“Even if I've been cooking to camera all day, when I get home, for me, the way to relax is still to see what's in the fridge, grab a couple of things from the garden and improvise the meal – albeit with a glass of wine in my hand.”

Sarah Millican show

COMEDIAN Sarah Millican will be bringing her stand-up show to Margate next year.

Outsider will be performed at the Margate Winter Gardens on March 4.

The performance will be starting at 8pm and tickets are £25.

For more information, or to book tickets to the show, you can visit www.margatewintergardens.co.uk.

Peppa Pig's surprise

FAMILY show Peppa Pig's Surprise will be performed in Gravesend next year.

Featuring life-size puppets and a number of songs, the show will be at the Woodville from April 15 to 16.

Tickets range from £13 to £21, with performances taking place at 10am, 1pm and 4pm.

For more information, or to book you can, visit www.woodville.co.uk.

Festive fable is staged

SET in the surroundings of the old courthouse at Rochester's Guildhall Museum, four actors and a pianist will be playing out Charles Dickens' festive fable *A Christmas Carol*.

The performance will be running from December 3 to 6.

Tickets are £10 and concessions are available at £7.50. Visit www.tickets.medway.gov.uk to book.

Jenny Eclair on stage

COMEDIAN Jenny Eclair will be bringing her new show - *How to be a Middle Aged Woman (Without Going Insane)* to Folkestone.

The show will be performed at the Folkestone Quarterhouse on March 3 2016 at 8pm.

For more details about the performance, call the box office on 01303 760750 or visit www.quarterhouse.co.uk.

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INCLUDED: £1 drinks from 7pm to 10pm both evenings - pint of house beer or small glass of wine • 2 dinners and 2 breakfasts • Live nightly entertainment • 2 nights sharing an en-suite bedroom with TV & free wifi



3 NIGHTS
HALF BOARD
PLUS
£129 PP

Free Drinks • Entertainment
Over 40s only • £10pp deposit

We Love the 60s Spring Party

Pontins Pakefield, Suffolk Coast 11 March, 2016 • Quote: PS3-KOS

Join us at Pontins Pakefield, on the Suffolk coast, for a Spring Party - for over 40s only - to blow away the winter cobwebs. We've lined up a brilliant entertainment showbill featuring The Ivy League, The Merseybeats and The Pacemakers plus tributes to The Beach Boys and The Beatles. With non-stop entertainment from Friday evening to Sunday evening and free drinks every night, this is one party weekend you're sure to love.

INCLUDED: 3 Free drinks per person per night - house beers & spirits, wine by the glass, pumped soft drinks & mixers • Full 60s theme entertainment programme • 3 breakfasts & 3 dinners • 3 nights en-suite chalet accommodation - upgrade available

3 NIGHTS
HALF BOARD
PLUS
£139 PP

Free drinks
Entertainment
Over 40s only
£10pp deposit

Mamma Mia & Super 70s Party

Pontins Pakefield, Suffolk Coast 8 July, 2016 • Quote: SS7-KOS

Join us at Pontins Pakefield, on the Suffolk coast, for a Super Summer Party - for over 40s only - to make the most of our favourite season. We've lined up a brilliant entertainment showbill featuring 70s themed music and nostalgia, including a screening of Mamma Mia the movie and an Abba tribute band. With non-stop entertainment from Friday evening to Sunday evening and free drinks every night, this is one party weekend you won't want to miss.

INCLUDED: 3 Free drinks per person every night - house beers & spirits, wine by the glass, pumped soft drinks & mixers • 3 breakfasts & 3 dinners • Full entertainment programme • 3 nights en-suite chalet - upgrade available

Private Events: You cannot book these self-drive breaks direct with the hotels/resorts



Meet Santa

advertisement feature

THERE are few places this Christmas where you can come along and see Father Christmas complete with his real reindeer this festive season.

But at the Reindeer Centre in Pluckley Lane, Bethersden, you can do just that.

So why not come along for a special visit and walk through his magical 150ft animated grotto? Walk through seven animated festive scenes, including the new Frozen scene. Children will then have their very own special encounter with Father Christmas in his log cabin with every child who pays him a visit receiving a quality wrapped present.

The large Christmas barn has a host of entertainment, all under cover, and is open every day from November 14. All the good boys and girls this year will be able to stroke and feed the real reindeer before they help



deliver their presents. You can also meet Santa's elves, smile for your Christmas photo, get free sweets and play in the play areas - there's even free mince pies.

So come down and get in the festive spirit.

For details and how to get there, visit the website www.reindeercentre.co.uk

CHRISTMAS is coming and when better for friends and family to get together and enjoy a well-cooked meal, a drink and a warm, friendly atmosphere?

Which is where The Waggon at Hale provides the perfect venue.

Serving its pre-Christmas menu from November 26 to December 23, the traditional country pub is an independent family establishment on the Capstone Road in Chatham.

Emma and her team are there to offer you a warm and friendly welcome whether you are looking for somewhere to have a good old pint of real ale, a glass of wine or looking to dine on its freshly-prepared food served all day everyday.

So why not get in the festive mood with its pre-Christmas menu - boasting a three-course meal plus coffee and mints for just



£22.95 per person.

For more details on how to book or to make a reservation, just get in touch.

The Waggon at Hale, 179 Capstone Road, Chatham, ME5 7PP. Telephone: 01634 400800 or email: waggonathale2011@hotmail.co.uk

BYBROOK Barn Garden Centre welcomes a very special winter visitor next weekend as Father Christmas arrives to take up residency in the run up to his busiest time of year.

The popular garden centre just off the Canterbury Road in Ashford, opens its wintery Christmas grotto on Saturday, November 28 with Santa once again the main attraction.

For just £7, your child can take a walk through the snowman-inspired grotto, meet Santa and receive a present - assuming they have been a good boy or girl, of course.

Also included in your ticket is a free cup and saucer ride.

As always, proceeds from the grotto go to charity and parents accompanying their children are free.

In addition to checking out the enormous range of decorations - as well as its normal wide range of items - you can stay to remain in the festive spirit by taking a ride on Bybrook's Santa Fe Train - for just £2 per person.

No booking is necessary - just buy your ticket on the day.

So make sure your build-up to Christmas starts in style with a trip to Bybrook Barn.

For more details, visit its website at www.bybrook-barn.co.uk or call 01233 631959.



CHRISTMAS just wouldn't be Christmas without taking a very special ride on a very special train.

The Kent & East Sussex Railway's Santa Specials have become part of many families' build up to the big day - and more and more of us are jumping on board to enjoy the magic.

Services depart from Tenterden station and take passengers on the one hour ten minute return trip to Northiam. On board passengers can enjoy a mince pie and a drink and, of course, a visit by none other than Father Christmas himself.

He will be handing out quality wrapped gifts to all children aged 12 and under, and festive chocolates for those between 13 to 15.

There are a number of packages available, including the chance to upgrade your ticket to first class or book a compartment just for you and your family.



To add to the fun, this year The Maze opens its doors, giving visitors the chance to explore the maze and meet a range of chilly characters. But be quick. The Santa Specials have become hugely popular and booking in advance is essential. For details and to book, visit www.kesr.org.uk.

LIKE fish and chips, Laurel and Hardy and gin and tonic, the best things often come in pairs.

So what better way to get in the Christmas mood than a visit to a leading seller of Christmas trees - and visit Santa Claus in his grotto while you're there?

Kingswood Christmas Trees have been providing top-grade British grown Christmas trees to Kent and beyond for the last 60 years. And visitors will be able to enjoy a complete festive experience.

Take a stroll through a magical winter wonderland with its extended walkway, greeting the live reindeer which line the route, and then meet Santa on his sleigh amid real Christmas trees covered with lights and snow.

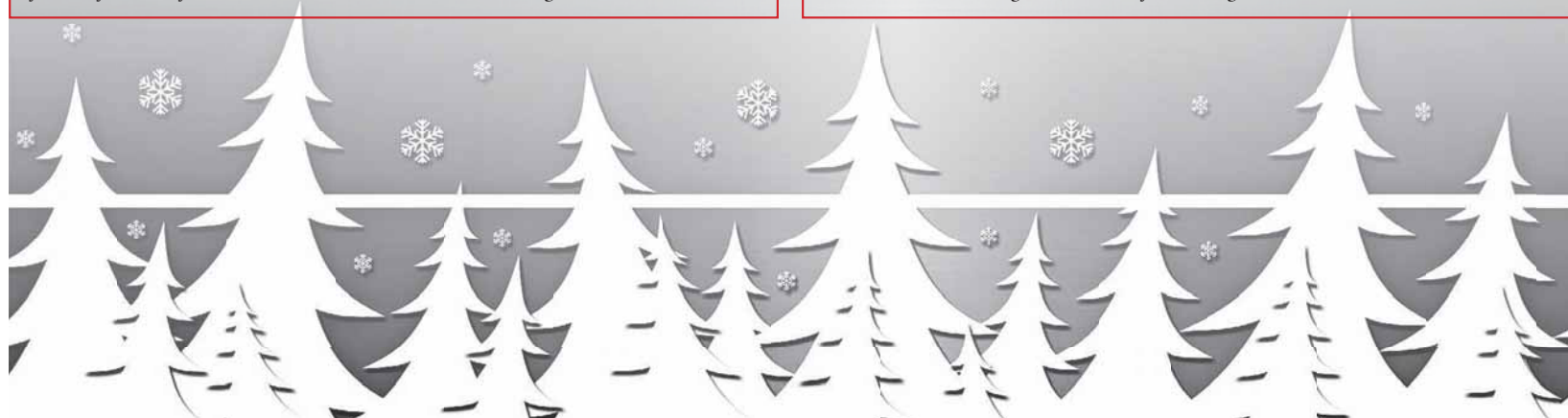
All children under 11 will receive a gift.

Families can visit the grotto, then sit by a



real log fire with a hot drink before everyone helps choose the perfect Christmas tree to provide the centrepiece of your celebrations.

Father Christmas will be in residence every weekend from November 28 from 10am to 4pm. For more details, visit www.kingswoodchristmastrees.co.uk.



Dubai life without breaking bank

TRAVEL REVIEW: Dubai

by Richard Jones

THE fiery red sun is sinking beneath the desert dunes that stretch as far as the eye can see in every direction.

The only noises piercing the eerie silence are the revs of 4x4 engines, followed by the laughter of our driver and gasps from passengers as we climb another dune.

We are taking part in one of Arabian Adventures' Sundowner Desert Safaris – a magical evening that begins with a thrilling journey over the sand dunes in the Dubai Conservation Reserve, and ends with a Middle Eastern feast under the stars at a traditional Bedouin-style camp.

Although we had only arrived in the UAE a few hours earlier, the forest of shiny skyscrapers, network of busy highways, and hustle and bustle of the city that greeted us now seems a million miles away. "Largest in the world", and "world record holder" are phrases that I hear quite often on my five-day trip to Dubai.

Construction work is taking place everywhere, and it's even been suggested that 25 per cent of the world's cranes are situated in the city, as it continues to expand both horizontally and vertically.

But despite being the world's fastest growing urban area, Dubai is still in touch with its traditions and Arabian way of life, and visitors can easily find areas rich in history and culture, as well as modern luxuries that won't break the bank.

It is totally free to visit Dubai's old town, but for 155 Dirhams (£28) per person, an Arabian Adventures guide will take you on a Merchants' Tour around the cobblestoned streets of the Fahidi Historical District, across the Dubai Creek and on to the famous



AMAZING: Dubai is still in touch with its traditions

spice and gold souks.

Almost everything you can think of is for sale at these markets, some of it authentic and valuable, but most not. It's fun finding out what's what - bartering with the shopkeepers and trying out local delicacies including camel milk chocolate.

For Western visitors to the UAE, it is also worth popping down to the Sheikh Mohammed Centre For Cultural Understanding (SMCCU).

At the SMCCU, we join a pair of Emirati hosts for a traditional Saturday breakfast to talk about topics including the Muslim dress code, the Arabs' role in the world and even the abstinence of pork and alcohol.

Despite Dubai's rich history, it is the 21st-century hotels, shopping malls, beaches, clubs and bars that have made the city into one of the most popular tourist destinations on Earth.

And although many visitors are

bound to make a beeline for the high-rise hotels down on Jumeirah Beach or at the Marina, boutique hotels such as Manzil Downtown Dubai and Vida Downtown Dubai, offer a similar level of service, luxury and comfort, but in a more scaled-down fashion. And with a much more digestible price tag of around £140 per night for a deluxe double room.

Both Manzil and Vida ooze style, and from their location on the palm-

TRAVEL FACTS

Richard Jones was a guest of Dubai Tourism. For more information about Dubai call 020 7321 6110 or visit www.visitdubai.com.

Return economy flights with Emirates from London Heathrow in November start from £389 per person. See www.emirates.com.

For more information about hotels you can visit www.vida-hotels.com.

tree laden Sheikh Mohammed Bin Rashid Boulevard, they have amazing views of mega-tall skyscraper the Burj Khalifa, and are a stone's throw away from the Dubai Fountains and Dubai Mall.

Before I arrived in Dubai, I had heard all about the legendary all-you-can-eat-and-drink Friday Brunches that take place throughout the city's hotels. But nothing could have prepared me for Vida's weekly Urban Picnic event. With packages starting at 295 Dirhams (under £50) per person, it is one of the best value brunch events in the city, especially compared with most of the larger hotels on Jumeirah Beach, which usually charge upwards of £100.

A great place to visit any night, but particularly post-brunch at Vida, is the sky lounge NEOS Bar over the road at The Address Downtown Dubai - where you can take a lift to the 63rd floor and enjoy reasonably-priced beers or cocktails, with views of the glittering city below.

The cream-coloured taxis are cheap as well. Fifty Dirhams (£10) will get you from any area of central Dubai to another, meaning even if you're on a budget, you can still see most parts of this amazing city.

Film Reviews by Damon Smith



THE HUNGER GAMES - MOCKINGJAY - PART 2 (12A, 137 mins) Thriller/Sci-Fi

WITHOUT any fanfare, Part 2 opens on Katniss' anguished face as she recovers from a skirmish with brainwashed Hunger Games competitor Peeta.

The unified Districts are

preparing for an assault on the Capitol and Katniss must lead the charge, guided by District 13's crusading President, Alma Coin, gamesmaker Plutarch Heavensbee and lovestruck childhood friend Gale Hawthorne.

Intelligence reveals President Snow has planted booby traps known as pods around the ruined city to annihilate the rebels before they reach his fortified mansion.

Katniss, Peeta, Gale and other valiant allies including Hunger Games victor Finnick venture behind enemy lines to launch a covert strike on Snow.

However, casualties are high and the gung-ho heroine must watch as the people she loves, including her plucky sister Primrose, risk everything in the name of liberty.

THE DRESSMAKER (12A, 118 mins) Comedy/Romance

JOCELYN Moorhouse's quirky Australian comedy drama induces tears as much as giggles.

At its heart is the beautifully shifting relationship between dressmaker, Tilly Dunnage, and her senile mother, Molly - who both, in turn, need mothering.

Based on the bestseller by Rosalie Ham *The Dressmaker* is set in the 1950s in the small town of Dungatar. Through eerie black and white flashbacks we learn Tilly was sent away as a child for her involvement in the death of a schoolboy.

Having found her metier as a seamstress and trained with the likes of Balenciaga in Paris, she's returned to Dungatar for her elderly mother Molly and to uncover who's to blame for what happened to her as a child.

Tilly finds her mother bed-ridden in a filthy house, not recognising her own daughter, and sets



about nursing her back to health.

MOMENTUM (15, 94 mins) Action/Thriller

A corrupt senator hires Alex and her band of thieves to pilfer a bag of diamonds. The posse is unaware that among the gems is a flash drive containing incriminating evidence of the politician's

wrongdoing. The heist unfolds as planned until an assassin known as Mr Washington slays Alex's accomplices, including her boyfriend.

She goes on the run, armed with the USB stick, and uncovers a far bigger conspiracy that could bring down the upper echelons of power. Alex must test her courage and resolve to stay alive.

If you think that you can only plant a tree if you have a large garden, think again.

There's a plethora of trees out there, which are compact, but look amazing as stand-alone features in a small space, providing colour, texture and form to a smaller garden.

Do your bit for National Tree Week, the UK's largest tree festival, and plant a tree which won't take up too much of your garden space, but will make a spectacular difference. Here are some of the best:

Amelanchier: These unsung heroes have started to become popular at the large horticultural shows in recent years and among the most gorgeous is *A. x grandiflora* 'Ballerina', which produces profuse white spring flowers before the bronze tinted young leaves emerge. *A. lamarckii*, the snowy mespilus, is often grown as a multi-stemmed type but can be trained as a light standard. Its elegant branches carry copper-coloured leaves in spring at the same time as starry white flowers, while in autumn the small oval leaves colour brilliantly.

Japanese Flowering Cherry (Prunus Shogetsu): This is a stunning stand-alone specimen which enjoys a long season of interest, from its spring blossom of double pink-and-white flowers to its bronze leaves which turn fiery red throughout autumn. It prefers a sunny spot with moist, well-drained soil. The blossom on flowering cherries can be a fleeting delight, but the slim, upright *Prunus*



PLETHORA: There is a selection of trees available

Branching into small spaces

nus 'Amanogawa' is ideal for a narrow garden, which takes up little space and is adorned with double pale pink flowers in mid spring.

Flowering dogwood: These are ideal small trees if you have neutral to acid soil. Among the finest of the conical types is *Cornus florida* f. *rubra*, which bears beautiful pink blooms in early summer followed by rich au-

tumn leaves. Other showstoppers include *C. florida* 'Cherokee Chief', which produces deep rose-red bracts, and *C. 'Porlock'*, which displays flame-coloured autumn hues on some of its leaves enhanced by the profusion of strawberry-like fruits which hang from the branches.

Flowering dogwoods do best in well-drained but fertile soil rich in

organic matter.

The Tree Council, the charity which organises National Tree Week, advises those buying a tree to check that it has been grown in the UK.

Director Pauline Buchanan Black says: "To continue enjoying trees, we need to lessen the risk of new tree diseases being imported on plants that have been grown in other countries.

"If everyone buying a tree makes a point of asking the nursery or garden centre for stock that's been produced within the UK, the message will be heard. This way, we can reduce the likelihood of scourges like ash die-back infecting another of our favourite landscape trees."

National Tree Week runs from November 28 to December 6.



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Please include your name and address, although these will be withheld in exceptional circumstances, and a daytime phone number for verification (this will not be published). We reserve the right to edit all letters.

Grammars do prove a success

IN his reply to my comments on grammar schools (Letters, last week) David Webb says that he was, like myself, from a working class background, but then goes on to describe the institutions as benefiting the middle class, entrenching privilege and being for an unfairly selected minority.

I do not know where and when he attended a grammar school but the pupils at the one I went to in 1958 were almost all from the same social strata as myself.

My father was a postman and most of the parents of my friends were bus conductors, shop workers, mechanics, office workers etc, not from privileged backgrounds at all.

My wife and her sister, the daughters and granddaughters of steelworkers, went to a grammar school in Teesside, where again the pupils were predominantly working class.

None of us was unfairly selected but succeeded on, to use a modern phrase, a level playing field, at passing the 11 plus.

I am sure that Mr Webb's children are very bright, but the standard of tertiary education has also declined since the era we are discussing, as is evidenced by the dilution of universities, when large number of polytechnics were unjustifiably upgraded, the entry requirements being adjusted to take account of poor secondary schools and the constant complaints from university lecturers that those arriving need remedial courses before even beginning their degrees.

The rot has spread upwards, although I expect that Oxbridge is still immune.

Collin Bullen,
Tonbridge

Manston: It is essential for us

IN answer to Robert Bird's article (Letters, last week), as a resident and true local of Thanet I answer his biased and one sided view as follows.

We need Manston Airport for our future generations, we need it for future guaranteed lifelong jobs, we need it to ease our roads from already excessive road haulage on our motorways in the next 20 years. We need it as an emergency diversion airport.

We want Manston Airport, it's our heritage, not a chunk of

LETTER OF THE WEEK



Paul Carter needs to phase out the 11-plus

KENT County Council leader Paul Carter appears to equate 'growth' with 'development' (KoS 8.11).

Genuine growth means getting more from the resources you already have by increasing productivity and efficiency - not just a more vibrant housing market.

Getting more from what we've got requires investing in Kent's greatest resource, its people. And that brings us back to education and the failure of our selective secondary schools to maximise the achievement of every child. You just don't get the most out of young people by telling three quarters of 11 year olds they have failed and sending them to schools seen as second tier.

Of course "Failing 11 plus is not road to ruin" (Letters, 15.11) - some young people recover from the knock back to do well; but others don't. Why put the extra obstacle of being labelled 'failing' in the way of so many? Evidence shows that, when like and like are compared,

children do better in non-selective school systems where they mix and learn alongside the full range of their peers.

As for "taking responsibility for oneself" and "making the effort" (Letters, 15.11) every pupil should get an equal chance to benefit from doing these throughout their compulsory school years - rather than a large majority being sent back 10 paces half way through, even if they have been trying and working hard.

I would have liked Mr Carter to support genuine growth by proposing a five-year phasing out of damaging selection at 11. Every family should be able to choose for their teenage children a high quality, local, all-ability school in which the individual needs of all children are met whatever their abilities and aptitudes. Other comparable counties offer that, why can't Kent?

Richard Stainton
Whitstable

Manston: Now is time to let it go

I FULLY support the fact that Manston Airport has had its day.

The campaigners bleat on and on about it creating all these jobs, but the reality is that it has never worked commercially - if it did or could, someone would have made it work.

All it did was create jobs built on the fragility of hope that every single time failed to deliver long term job security. What's more, its constant failure to work simply

seemed to shine a light on Thanet as a place where business struggles. To think any different is just blinding yourself to the reality.

Infrantil had it on the market for ages and RiverOak didn't seem interested in it then. I wonder why?

Thanet does not need an under-used airport where the promise is merely of 'mights' and 'maybes' as to its future potential. It is, simply, in the wrong place for an airport and the area would be far better used for something else; thus creating many more jobs.

Those who make a loud noise need to remember they are very much in the minority - whatever they may think.

J Baxter,
Westgate

Manston: Let's sack the council

SORRY - where did you find your correspondent (Letters, last week)?

This individual makes remarks when he knows nothing of what he is writing about and you publish it.

Manston will be a success and RiverOak have given all the guarantees required in law as financially fit and proper people. Roger Gale is perfectly correct in backing the compulsory purchase order (CPO) route.

It's about time we had a change at Thanet District Council - the ineptitude of Mr Wells and the cabinet leaves councillors appointed by the voter with one arm strapped behind their backs and little chance of taking Thanet forward.

So Mr Wells, go and go now and let's get rid of the cabinet.

P Lloyd,
North Thanet

Flush away the out-o-date loos

AFTER a recent visit to Broadstairs, I still find the various toilets virtually unchanged for the last 50 years.

The toilets next to the clock on the cliff top are a prime example; the doors look like the original ones and for visitors, not a very inviting place. They even boast with a plaque saying they were refurbished in 1991. Nothing to be proud of.

They need to either build new toilets or refurbish to modern day standards and charge to use them.

Also, the clock tower is a disgrace and should be totally renovated before it is too late.

D Thorne,
Rochester

KOS 10 GUIDING PRINCIPLES

AS part of our commitment to providing the best service to you, we have produced our 10 guiding principles

Kent on Sunday will:

- 1) Be available in every postcode in Kent.
- 2) Be fair, accurate and balanced.
- 3) Be written in clear, concise English.

- 4) Not be overly sensational.
- 5) Have a sense of humour.
- 6) Have an easily understood division between news, comment and advertising.
- 7) Seek to celebrate as well as constructively criticise.
- 8) Highlight topical issues of concern to

people living in the county.

9) Spotlight individual cases which raise broader concerns.

10) Champion causes that it feels are important to the well-being of the county and its people.

We hope you enjoy Kent on Sunday.



Royal Terrace Pier, Gravesend

by **Ian Stevenson,**
from Northfleet

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SAFER: The Hyundai Santa Fe has had a facelift and some major safety advances added too

Santa Fe trail is now even safer

UPDATE: Once 'cheap as chips', Hyundai's flagship SUV has grown in class, quality and status since arriving here in 2001...

SUCH is the pace of development with the Korean brands, it seems odd to be discussing a facelift for Hyundai's Santa Fe.

Launched in 2012 and, as ever, representing a quantum leap over its by no means lame predecessor, Hyundai's flagship SUV now gets styling tweaks to bring it into line with the smaller Tucson, launched this year, plus advanced safety and comfort features.

One of the major advances here is AEB (autonomous emergency braking) which uses various sensors to apply the brakes if the driver does not respond in time to an imminent collision with a pedestrian or vehicle.

This potential lifesaver is partnered with other aids such as smart cruise control - which adjusts the car's speed automatically if the set pace is bringing it close to the vehicle in front - plus 'all-around' view monitor and blind spot detection.

The Santa Fe was Hyundai's first SUV and is credited with establishing the marque in the USA - the nation that sparked the 4x4 SUV craze.

It helped having a name evoking the famous Santa Fe Trail, a gruelling 900-mile Wild West trade route - Santa Fe means 'Holy Faith' in Spanish, so you get the picture.



And the car has lived up to its rugged name-sake and Hyundai's robust five-year/unlimited mileage warranty.

The aggressively-priced original arrived in the UK in 2001, but the current car is far removed in quality and status (from £31,245) offers five or seven seats, and can be had with

front-wheel drive or 4x4. However, a 200bhp 2-litre diesel engine is the sole power option.

Rear load space is a class-best 534 litres with the front five seats upright, and all rear seats can be flopped quickly with a one-touch release to create a huge (1,680 litres 2WD version) and nearly flat cargo area.

Style is the Soul factor for reinvented Kia

Every range needs a style icon, but Kia has two: the Sportage SUV and the Soul – now in generation two, writes **Steve Loader...**

MINI does it, VW's Beetle does it and Fiat's 500 has just done it – retaining an iconic design, that is, while developing an all-new model.

So it was no surprise that Kia's Soul icon (from £12,800) – a funky yet functional cross between an SUV and MPV – was re-invented last year.

But if you thought "same looks means same underpinnings", think again.

This time, it has a longer and wider chassis derived from the Korean marque's excellent Ceed hatchback, delivering more passenger and luggage space, addressing the rather upright seating stance in the back of the original car, and boosting cargo capacity by 14 litres, to 685.

The other benefit from the Ceed underpinnings is greater stiffness for more 'soulful' driving dynamics. The steering is still a little light, but the Soul certainly handles corners more confidently, with less roll, even if the ride is a little harsher at times.

The interior is also more upbeat; more stylish and far better quality, partly addressing a failure from before, but also in step with Kia's march upmarket away from its old 'value brand' image, though the



market-leading value-added seven-year/100,000-mile warranty continues.

What also remains is a limited engine choice: 1.6-litre capacity - either a 130bhp petrol or, as tested here, 126bhp diesel unit.

With the diesel line-up starting at £16,600, the petrol looks attractive:

it's marginally quicker in the 0-62mph sprint and though the official combined mpg (41.5) is 15mpg inferior – you would really need to pile on some miles to recoup the extra outlay on the diesel.

On the other hand, if you must have an auto (six-speed and priced from £18,100) then it has to be diesel.



Mindful of the customisation craze sparked by the MINI, Kia launched the original Soul with a plethora of customised models targeting different buyers: the Soul Burner, for example, looked a real mean machine and had a big sound system with illuminated pulsing speakers.

The key this time is a little lower, if

Kia Soul 1.6 CRDi Mixx

Price:	from £19,950
Driving appeal:	★★★★
Image:	★★★★
Space:	★★★★
Value:	★★★★
Running costs:	★★★★
How green?:	★★★★
Best rival:	Renault Captur

more tasteful, with two flagship trim levels – Mixx and Maxx – offering particular panache.

Our test car was a Mixx with a two tone paint ensemble that visually lowers the Soul's boxy profile. Partnered with stylish alloys, it certainly looks the smart urban runabout, more alluring and practical than the awkward looking Nissan Juke, though not as chic as the Renault Captur – its strongest rival.

Standard kit on the Soul is generous with digital radio and air con as standard and the dashboard is well organised, with an eight-inch touchscreen bringing cutting edge connectivity with smartphones and personal devices.

Refinement is much improved from before, apparently after Kia engineers' hard work on reduction of NVH (noise, vibration and harshness).

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TO ADVERTISE:

TELEPHONE: **01233 653461**

EMAIL: **appointments@kosmedia.co.uk**

ONLINE: **www.jobs24.co.uk/kent**



MATHS TUTORS

Required for January 2016 onwards
Casual work paid at an hourly rate of £26.00
(Based on Thamesview Qualified Teacher Scale M4)

We are looking to develop the support provided in school on a 1:1 and small group basis for lower ability students to raise attainment at Key Stage 3 and GCSE Maths.

We want to create a team of maths tutors to come into school on a flexible basis as and when required (casual work paid hourly) to coach and provide intervention sessions for students requiring additional help to make the expected progress in this subject area. The role will also include liaising with the Director of Maths about the intervention requirements/suitability and providing evidence to track student progress

Our ideal candidates will...

- hold QTS or have relevant teaching/tutoring experience
- relate well to students and be able to engage and build effective working relationships with them
- be enthusiastic and be able to demonstrate innovative and creative teaching practices and intervention strategies
- have high aspirations for all students
- have an understanding of the AQA Maths GCSE syllabus

The School is one of the best performing High Schools in Kent and received a very positive Ofsted Report recently and was rated 'good' in every category with some outstanding features. Thamesview is a new school build that benefits from innovative learning environments and state of the art ICT equipment.

We are committed to providing high quality learning experiences for our students and to supporting our staff through excellent CPD opportunities.

Further details and an application form can be obtained from our **HR Manager on 01474 566552 ext 1120** or email **k.mcgowan@thamesview.kent.sch.uk**

Closing Date: 30th November 2015 at 9.00 am

Interviews: w/c 7th December 2015

CVs without an application form will not be accepted.

Appointment to this post is subject to a criminal background check via the Disclosure and Barring Service (DBS). Thamesview School operates a no smoking policy.



LEGAL AND PUBLIC NOTICES



**MARINE AND COASTAL ACCESS ACT 2009
RIVER MEDWAY NURSERY AREA (PROHIBITION OF
FISHING) BYELAW**

NOTICE IS HEREBY GIVEN: The Kent and Essex Inshore Fisheries and Conservation Authority intends to apply to the Minister for the Department for Environment, Food and Rural Affairs for confirmation of a River Medway Nursery Area (Prohibition of Fishing) Byelaw to protect fish populations using the River Medway as a nursery area and offer protection to the Marine Protected Area designations of the site.

During the period of 28 days from the date of the publication of this Notice a copy of the Byelaw and Impact Assessment will be deposited at the offices of the applicant, at the address given below and at www.kentandessex-ifca.gov.uk.

Objections or representations concerning this notification should be made within 28 days of the date of this notice to both addresses given below:

Marine Conservation and Enforcement Team
Marine Management Organisation
Lancaster House, Hampshire Court
Newcastle upon Tyne NE4 7YH
or ifcabyelaws@marinemanagement.org.uk

Kent and Essex Inshore Fisheries
and Conservation Authority
Paragon House, Albert Street
Ramsgate, Kent CT11 9HD
or info@kentandessex-ifca.gov.uk

s.17 Licensing Act 2003

Notice is hereby given that Christopher Strachan has applied to Medway Council on 13th November 2015 for the grant of a premises licence for 121 High Street, Rainham ME8 8AN

The proposed application is to permit;

The sale of alcohol (on and off the premises)
11:00hrs to 23:00hrs Monday to Saturday and
12:00hrs to 22:00hrs Sunday

Any person who wishes to make a representation in relation to this application must give notice in writing of his/her representation by 11th December 2015 stating the grounds for making said representation to: Licensing Unit, Medway Council, Gun Wharf, Dock Road, Chatham, Kent ME4 4TR

The public register where applications are available to be viewed by members of the public can be accessed online by visiting www.medway.gov.uk and following the link to the public register

The Licensing Authority must receive representations by the date given above. The Licensing Authority will have regard to any such representation in considering the application. It is an offence, under section 158 of the Licensing Act 2003, to knowingly or recklessly make a false statement in or in connection with an application for premises licence and the maximum fine on being convicted of such an offence is £5000.

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01233
653461

or email
**jerry.barrett
@archant.
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To place your legal notices

call **01233 653465** or

email **jerry.barrett@archant.co.uk**

ARCHANT } KOS MEDIA

BID: The Chatham middleweight, left, is confident ahead of his title fight on Saturday with Wayne Reed



Dennis: I want to be world champ

The 32-year-old fights Wayne Reed on Saturday evening

Boxing

By Tom Pyman

tom.pyman@archant.co.uk

UNDEFEATED middleweight Grant Dennis says he feels no pressure ahead of his first title challenge next weekend.

The 32-year-old takes on Sheffield's Wayne Reed on Saturday at Gillingham's Medway Park for the newly-sanctioned British Challenger belt.

The Chatham fighter told KoS: "I just want to show what I can do, the title itself is just a bonus, but I'm really looking forward to it."

"I'm confident because I know what I've put in at the gym and it that will pay off on Saturday."

"I'm naturally a confident person but it comes with my work ethic, which is second to none, and ever since I've become professional I haven't left a stone unturned."

"I train pretty much all day, six days a week, sometimes even more, so I don't get much time off."

With four victories without loss under his belt thus far, Dennis' confidence is justified going into the biggest bout of his career to date.

The surroundings of Medway Park are no stranger to him, either, having beaten Lewis van Poetsch twice in the ring in Gillingham, but he doesn't believe that will necessarily give him an advantage on November 28.

"I don't think the venue makes much difference to how I perform," he said. "The ring is my home, even if it's on the Moon. I don't feel any pressure,

only what I put on myself to perform and be the best I can be."

"But obviously it's nice to be in front of a home crowd, and my friends and family and people who want to watch me fight won't have to travel long distances to do so."

After sparring with the likes of John Ryder, Lee Markham, and Chris Eubank Jr, Dennis' ambitions aren't limited to beating 28-year-old Reed and claiming his first title.

"I look at boxing as what I was born and meant to do and it's a privilege to be able to put my skills out there for people to see," he said.

"I want to be the world champion, and if I didn't believe I had the ability to do it then I might as well give up."

"That's just who I am - if I was a belly dancer or a road sweeper I'd still want to be the very best."

Northeast heads up Kent Development Trust

KENT cricket captain Sam Northeast has been named an ambassador after the launch of the club's new charity, the Kent Cricket Development Trust.

The trust has been set up to raise funds for the delivery of a range of worthwhile community projects within Kent that will benefit those that live and work here.

Northeast said: "I am delighted. "Having started my cricketering journey in Kent as a boy I appreciate the importance of community cricket and how it drives the game in clubs and schools."

"It is not only about player development but the role that it plays for everyone to promote healthy lifestyles and bring communities together."

"Working with the trust is a real privilege - an opportunity that ena-



CAPTAIN: Sam Northeast

bles Kent cricket to give back to the community."

The 26-year-old from Ashford will

be a leading ambassador for the Trust and promote fundraising with Kent Cricket programmes' manager Heidi Coleman, who will be leading fundraising activities for the trust.

She said: "Having Sam involved in the work of the trust is a really exciting opportunity."

"Having been born in Kent and involved in Kentish cricket from an early age, Sam brings a great deal of experience and some fantastic ideas on how the charity can assist all sectors of the community."

The trust will be involved in numerous fundraising activities and events, which will include a club curry and quiz night, a golf day and a six-a-side cricket competition.

For further details about the trust, see the county club's official website at www.kentcricketc.co.uk

Sport Shorts

» Email sports@kosmedia.co.uk or call Tom Pyman on 01233653477

Dartford 'appalled' by league's fixture mess

DARTFORD FC have this week slammed the National League's decision to postpone this weekend's match with Maidenhead United.

Maidenhead requested the game be postponed because of their televised fixture with Port Vale on Thursday evening.

In response, Dartford issued a statement on their official site.

It read: "We at Dartford Football Club are appalled by the league's decision, which leaves us without a fixture for another weekend."

"It also means players, management, directors and fans, having to make arrangements to take extra time off work on the afternoon of the re-arranged date."

"We will undoubtedly be supported by far fewer fans than would have been at this Saturday's game."

In better news for the Darts this week, they caused an upset in the Kent Senior Cup, overcoming a strong Gillingham side 2-1.



BOSS: Tony Burman



GALLAGHER: Home of Maidstone United

Captain Watt released by ruthless Maidstone

MAIDSTONE United have released club captain Steve Watt with immediate effect.

The former Chelsea defender joined from Dover Athletic in 2013 after a brief loan spell, making 89 appearances in total for the Stones.

Boss Jay Saunders said the decision was a difficult, but necessary, one.

"Watty has done a great job for the club but I felt the time was right to make some changes," he said.

"I am looking to bring in a couple of players to freshen things up and

that means having to let some go."

"Releasing players is a tough part of the job, especially in Watty's case where he's been club captain for a couple of seasons."

"Everything he's done in that time has been fantastic, he's been a terrific leader on and off the pitch and he can be proud of what he's helped us to achieve."

Midfielder Mitchell Pinnock has also been made available for transfer after struggling to nail down a first team place after joining from Bromley in the summer.

Gills forward departs on loan

GILLINGHAM striker Ben Williamson has joined League Two side Cambridge United on a loan deal until January 3.

The 26-year-old joined the club in the summer on a two-year contract having turned down a new deal at Port Vale.

Since then though, he has found consistent game time difficult to

come by, and joins Cambridge in search of regular first team action.

Williamson has featured 14 times for the Gills this season, most recently in the 1-1 draw against Yeovil in the Johnstone's Paint Trophy.

A clause in his contract means that Gillingham can recall the player from his loan.

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